88/562 | £15-00
D/22 | LATTO BOOKS

[1ST SERIES – SCARCE]

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc

The Archive Library

Registered in Scotland No 90312

Registered Office: 36 St Andrew Square
Edinburgh EH2 2YB

A Member of IMRO and of AFBD

14015 (1/89)

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026

https://archive.org/details/southleithrecord0000drob

SOUTH LEITH PARISH CHURCH

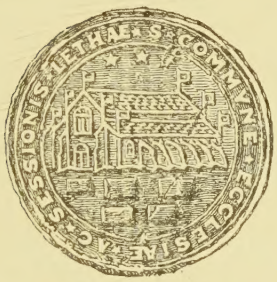
AS IT EXISTED FROM 1674 TO 1836.

SOUTH LEITH RECORDS

COMPILED FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS FOR THE YEARS 1588 TO 1700;
AND FROM OTHER ORIGINAL SOURCES

BY

D. ROBERTSON, LL.B., S.S.C.
SESSION CLERK



SEAL A.D. 1608.

PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE KIRK SESSION BY WILLIAM R. DUFF & CO., LEITH

ANDREW ELLIOT, 17 PRINCES STREET, EDINBURGH
1911

PREFACE.

THE Registers and other books under the custody of the Kirk Session of South Leith parish extend, with slight blanks, from 29th May 1597 down to the present time. Much care and anxiety have been exercised to preserve these books, with the result that they have escaped the fate of mutilation or loss which usually overtakes records to which many people have right of access; and they are still in a very creditable state of preservation. So far as they profess to go, they form an authentic, indeed the only authentic, history of the parish. The Registers contain the minutes of the Kirk Session, and enable one to follow the deliberations of successive generations of ministers and elders, bailies and incorporations, concerning the church and churchyard, the schools, the poor, the errant men and women of the parish, the religious and social evolution of the people. From the extracts now published it may be possible to reconstruct, in outline at least, some of the problems which engaged the thoughts of former generations, and to stir the dust upon controversies long forgotten, which, though concerned chiefly with the lights and shadows of parish life, not infrequently touch upon, and form foot-notes to, the larger pages of our national history. These extracts also hold fragmentary character-sketches of individuals who were prominent in the parish in their day; and incidentally they explain many place-names in the neighbourhood.

The ancient parish of South Leith is nearly triangular in shape, containing an area of some 2265 acres. It is bounded on the north-east by the Firth of Forth; on the south by Duddingston and Canongate; on the west by the parishes of the royalty of Edinburgh, St. Cuthbert's and North Leith. The boundary runs along the Fishwives' Causeway, thence nearly along the highway between the City and Portobello; thence at Piershill it sweeps round Parsons Green skirting the King's Park; thence along the North Back of the Canongate touching the Waverley Station; thence down the length of Leith Walk; thence westward to the Water of Leith, running down its bed to the Firth. Including the *quoad sacra* parishes which have been disjoined from it in recent years, the parish embraces large portions of Craigentinny, Restalrig, Jock's Lodge, Abbeyhill, Canongate, Calton and South Leith.

The present volume was begun in anticipation of the ter-centenary of the Act of Parliament dated 24th June 1609, whereby South Leith became the church of the parish. This event was celebrated in the church on 24th June 1909, and an account of the proceedings of that day has been transcribed from the parish magazine. The event has been further commemorated within the church by the restoration of various relics illustrative of its past history, and also and chiefly by the new front to the organ-gallery gifted by Mr Tulloch, upon which are displayed the Arms of the Logan and Balmerino families, and of Restalrig, Edinburgh and Leith.

The minutes down to the year 1660 have already appeared by instalments of four pages each month in the parish magazine, and the Kirk-Session have sanctioned their continuance to the year 1700. The book owes its origin and execution to the minister of the parish, the Rev. John White, M.A., to whom it is dedicated in testimony of a much-esteemed friendship and in recognition of many distinguished services rendered to the church.

LEITH, 12*th June* 1911.

ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

24th June 1609.

Our Souvereine Lord and estaittes of this pnt Parlt understanding that the Kirk of Restalrig is ruynous and that the Kirk of Leith has bene the place of convening of the parochiners of Restalrig the space of fyftie years past and alsue that it is the most commodious pairt in respect that the toun of Leith has the greatest part of the said parochin whilk Kirk nevertheless has never bene erectit in ane paroch Kirk. Thairfoir oure soueraine lord and estaittis of this prnt parlt declairis the said Kirk of Leith to be ane paroch Kirk and ordains the same to be repute and called hereafter the paroch Kirk of Leith and all the inhabitants of Restalrig to resort thereto as unto ane paroch Kirk as they have done in times past and that the benefice of Restalrig, parsonage thereof gleib and manse pertaining thereto shall be always disponit to the minister serving the cure at the said Kirk of Leith in all time coming, and that the said Kirk of Restalrig be superseded and extinct from henceforth and for ever, reserveand always to the patrone and his successors thair richt of patronage of the Kirk of Restalrig; and the saidis Estaittis declairis that the samyn richt of patronage shall nowayes be prejudjeit be this pnt act.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
PREFACE	v
ACT OF PARLIAMENT, 24TH JUNE 1609	vi
EXTRACTS FROM THE REGISTERS OR MINUTE BOOKS	1-184
"ANE SERMON," 13TH JANUARY 1571	185
THE TERCENTENARY CELEBRATIONS	194
ARTICLES FROM THE CHURCH MAGAZINE	203
THE CHRONICLE	208
INDEX TO PAGES 1-184	217

Seal appended to a charter dated 15th June 1598, granted by the Kirk Session in favour of Henry Hall of a piece of land near the Kirk of Leith.

RECORDS OF THE SESSION.

EXTRACTS from the Register 1588-1596 now amissing.

25 *May* 1588.—William Brysoune, talzier, is ordainit to pay 1 lib. for braking the Sabbath. William Penny and James Jonston, baxter, is ordainit to be wardit for disobedience.

The said day Margaret Murray, spouse to umqle Henrie Watt, and now spouse to Patrik Greiue, in Dalkeith, was ordainit vnder the pain of c lib to depairt aff yis toune wtin. viij houris immediatlie yairefter.

10*th Feby.* 1589.—The quilk daye, voitet by monyest, that twa onlie sall visit euerie Soneday, with ane officear thay do be warrainet before ye sessioune yat dois violate ye sameen, or else putt in ye Tolbuith.

July 17, 1589.—The quhilk day compeirit Bernard Lindsay and Barbara Logan & gave up their names to be proclaimit and marreit within this date and Michaelmas. Jhone Logan, cautioner.

Note.—Bernard Street is named after this Bernard Lindsay.

Vigesimo tertio Novembris 1591.—The hail Sessioune, with ane assent, has agreit that eurie persone reveiling ony conclusions of ye sessione that aucht to be keepit secret, or may prejudise ye sessione or oney member yairof, sall be depryvit from his office, and pay c lib. to the puir, and eurie ane obliges yairto with their awin assent, and ar content yat yis act be registrat in ye buikis of ye toun, and ye baillies authoritie interponit yairto.

23 *Nov.* 1591.—The quhilk day, the elders and deekins chosen for ye zeir hes ratified ye foresaid actes, vnder ye said penaltie with yis additione, yat ye elderis and deekins yat beis absint fra ye preitching oney Soneday, either abefoir none or eftir none, without ane lawfull excuse allowed be the sessioune at the day of meiting, sall pay halff ane mark, and in case they refuse, sall pay the double. The order of visitatioune to be as it was abefore. 4 to visit euery quarter of the toune monthlie: 1st the Doubras, 2nd the Hill, 3d Caldtoun, 4th the Sandis.

Note.—1st, St Andrew Street; 2nd, Coalhill; 3rd, Calton; 4th, Bernard Street.

It is ordainit yat if ony inhabitant within this toun sall be found excessiv or extra-ordinarlie drunken, sall pay ane penaltie according to ye discretioun and modificatioun of ye sessioun, to be bestowed vpon and to the vsialitie of ye puir and quasoeuer means to exempt ony sik persoune sall pay according to ye sessionis modificationing.

It is ordainit that nane sall lie in ye kirk yeard in ye tyme of preitching, or being found doing only unlawfull deidis wtin. ye said yeard, under ye paine of warding of yair persounis.

25 *Maij* 1592.—the quhilk day the provost Johnne Arnottis Shepherd, was acted that for everie sheep he beit in ye kirkyeard suld pay ix merkis, and everie nyt yar carried thame betwix the Coitfield and ye kirk style he suld pay v mark.

17 *January* 1593.—ye qlk day Gilbert Storie and his sonne was ordainit to stand at ye kirk dore, in yair lynning clais, from ye begining of ye secund bell till ye preitching be begun, and eftir yat all ye people be in yey to be convoyit to ane forme at ye back of ye marriage stule be ye coller, and ye next Thursday ye kirk absolved thame onlie till finding catioune yat yey nevir suld trouble ony within the town of Leith heireeftir, as they are acted in ye town clerkie buike.

11 *Julij* 1594.—the quhilk day ye sessioune concludit and agreit with Robt. Mitchell for ane zeir to cum to handle the knok and hald her gangane for vi lib Scot monay; and siklyk Wm. Mathiesoun to ring ye bellis at each

sessionis and houris for xx lib, of ye qlk ye said William has receavit for the first quarter ye sum of v lib.

1596, the haill sessioun, convenit for the present year, allowed and ratifyet ye forsaid acts, with this addition, that everie elder and deekin in thair houses at nycht eftir supper, sall read, or caus be read, ane chapter with a prayer and catechising thir servandis, and everie morning a prayer befoir wark, as is written in the end of the psalm buike.

EXTRACTS from the Minute Books.

29*th Maii* 1597.—The qlk day compeirit Wm. Logan befoir the Sessioun and requerit licence for to build ane Seat to his Mother the Gude-Wyff of Sheriffis Bray, the qlk licence was grantit with this conditioun that nane of hir prosteritie sal cleame ony tytle to the said seat without licence askit and granted be the said Session under the paine of fyve libs money.

And this same act to strik upon all sic seats in the Kirk for the avoyding of all inconveniencies that may fall out heirafter.

2*nd Junij* 1597.—The Qlk day compered Issobel morysoun bofoir the sessioun and being accused foir Injuriing Maister george Symple, Acted hir selff voluntarly never to Injurie the said Mr george be word or deid, in his presens or behind his bak, qlk we call bakbytting, vnder the paine of x lbs. so oft as the contrar salbe tryed.

16*th Junij* 1597.—The Qlk day christian kelly and hir dochter being accusit for Injurijng Thoas. waldy, Acted them selffis never to be found cursand, bannand or Injurijng ony persoun heirefter vnder the paine of x libs or els remain in waird for the spece of aught dayes and pay v libs.

The sam day william fourd (being ane of the kirk deokins for thir present zeir) wes put aff the sessioun, for consulting wt a warlow in new-castell in Ingland. Heirefoir he maid his publik repentence vpone ane sabbat befoir nown in presens of the whoile congregaoun.

Sicklyk archebald Tait the sam day for consulting wt bessie aikin suspected of witch-craft. bot no deocone nor elder.

27*th Aprilis* 1598.—*Scholl*—The Qlk day Elspit mortoun being delated for vptaking ane school wtout lycence asked or granted be ather kirk sessioun, magistrat or ony vther haueand auctoritie. The qlk wes ordanit to be dis-chairged at witsounday nixt. And no forder liberte granted to hir nor ony vther heirefter.

27*th April* 1598.—The sam day John Mathesone wes appoynted ballie of Sanct Antonis and ordainit to hald court and lyft and inbring the feu meils thairof to the utilitie and use of the Kirk and Puire of Leyt.

15*th Junii* 1598.—The qlk day William Logan being warnit for aught libs addebtit by him to the Sessioun, for the qlk he alledgit that he payed for Mr Georg Symples chalmers meill the Soum of Nyn libs and swa the Sessioun dischargit the said Wm. of the fore-said Soum of aught libs, for the haly blood aker.

27*th Junij* 1598.—*Schoole.*—nota. The qlk day the sessioun did discharge all schools except James hayes and Daniel blaklawis. And that nane tak on hand ony instructioun of bairnes wtout the said sessiones licens asked and the seakers to be examined vpon their qualificaoun. And all present teachers ordanit to desist and cess vnder the paine of deprivaoun.

28 *September* 1598.—Andro Ayles com-positioun for over-giving his tak of St. antans zeird is four scoir marks to be payed at twa termes viz; at mertymes xx lib at witsounday fyftie marks.

4*th Januarij* 1599.—The Qlk day the sessioun ordanit ane testimoniall to be given to maister george symple for approving of his lyff and doctrin induring the whole tym of his residens among them, and also commandit thair clark to extract vnto him quhatsumever actes wes maid in his fauours at ony tyme in respect they never knew ony thing to him bot soundness in doctrin, zeal and vprightness in disciplin wt ane godly example of honest conversatioun to the great comfort of them

and the whole inhabitantes of thair whole toun.

Vltimo maij 1599. — The quhilk day Thomas dowgall being accusit foir excessive drinking acted him selff never to be found in the lyk offence heirefter vnder paine of tene poundis money.

28*th februarij* 1600.—*Kare.*—The qlk day george Kar warkman for blasphemie maid his repentence at the Kirk dure and on the piller wt a peper on his haid bairing this supperscription *for blasphemie and vnnaturall leeving his bairns quhen he gaid to Flanders.*

William Allester acted never to be noted excessive drinking heirefter under the paine of x mks.

Excessive drunkines.—The quhilk day it is ordanit be the whole Sessioun that all quhat sumever inhabitant wtin this toun beis found at ony tyme extraordinarily or excessiuely drounkin sall pay ane penaltie accordin to the Sessiounes discretioun and modificaoun to be bestowed to the vtilitie of the puire.

Primo Marcii 1600.—The qlk day the Sessioun agreed with James Speere Skleter for susteining and heding the bodie of the Kirk of Leiyt watter teight, the spece of three zeiris to come and obliges to pay yeirly to the said James x lib: — viz. aught markes of the Maisteres and Marines the Kirk to pay the rest.

18*th Septembris* 1601.—The qlk day Johne geddes Being accusit befoir the sessioun for having folkis drinking in his hous on ane sonday in tyme of preitching for the qlk he payed *vs* And frely acted himselff that iff ever he suld suffer the lyk to be doun in his house heirefter he suld pay xl*s*.

11*th Decembris* 1601.—The qlk day Johne geddes being warnit and accusit for halding folkis drinking in his house on the Sabbath day in tyme of preitching payed xl*s* conforme to ane act maid be his awin consent And thairfoir is acted of new that iff ever the lyke be found committing in house he sall pay 4 lib.

2*nd Aprilis* 1602.—The qlk day david greeve being accusit for misvsing his wyffe helene sellarman freelie acted him selff never to Injurie hir heirefter be woord or deid fute or hand vnder sik paine as the Kirk sall lay to his charge.

25*th Julij* 1602.—*Schoole.*—The qlk day the sessioun wt concurrence of the magistrates comanded be oppin proclamaoun and straik of drome that nane inhabitant within this toun send thair bairnes to ony vther schoole bot all the lads to Mr Thomas provand and all the lasses to James hay fra this tyme fourth And all vther schooles *hinc inde* be discharged as the act of registroun in the toun of leythes buikis bairis at mair leynt vnder sik penaltie as salbe injoyned and that James hay sall haue for his service in the Kirk zeirly sex scoir poundis the magistratis bindis them selffis yto.

Decimo May 1603.—The qlk Mr Jeremie Lyndesay requered lycens to bould upone the south syd of the Kirk Wall the forme of a Tomb fornent the burial place of Margaret Cochill his Spous to the qulk the wholl Sessioun aggreed as a thing baith comely and honest.

11*th Septembris* 1603.—The same day it was ordanit that in the beginning of March nixt to cum the rouffe of the Kirk sall be entered to for to be repaired.

8*th Marcij* 1605.—The qlk day compeired Thomas dowgall and being accused for excessive dronkines excused himselff that he haid beine in Edr. and fasted al the day and at the nether bow meit wt a gentill man quho gave him a drink of rosasolis (*i.e.* brandy) qlk tuik him be the hart and ran in his haid that he wist not qt he did Heirfoir he acted himselff *de novo* that giff ever he beis notted excessive dronkin heirefter he sall pay the penaltie conteined in the former and particular act maid agans him vltimo Maij 1599.

4*th Aprilis* 1605.—*St. Antans.*—The quhilk day Abraham wauchop was appoynted ballie of St. Antans and to hald court efter witsonday and to be assistit wt sik persounes as he sall choise of the sessioun.

20*th Octob.* 1605.—Ihone Mathesone compeirand befoir the Sessioun in name of his Mother and bedfallow obtaining licence to them to set in two chairs in the Kirk.

25th October 1605.—Upon the qlk day it is finallie agreeit and endit be the Session yt Robert Mitchell sall enter to Umql Thomas Bunkhill his Office and sall discharge all Offices qlk the said Thos wis wont to do wt this provissioun yt he sall quyt and owergif the twentie mks qlk he had zeirlie for keeping of ye knok.

20th Januarii 1606.—Uppon the qlk day Ihone Ballantyne in name of the maltmen and Thomas Johnstowne protestit in presence of ye Sessioun that they disasentit from selling of the windmill.

14th Marcii 1606.—Uppon ye qlk day Mr Jeremie Lindsay in presens of the quhole sessioune delyvrit to Abraham Waches aucht hundret mks and yt in compleit payment of the windmill.

7th November 1606.—Upon the said day Ihone Mathesone ane of the Elders of the Sessione obteined licence of the Sessione to erect and big up ane sait or desk upon the eist side of the Pulpit.

November 27th 1606.—The said day the Sessioune granted licence to Mr Jeremie Lindsay to cause erect ane daske unto his guid Mother his Wife and Sister upon the West syde of the Pulpit.

December 19th, 1606.—The qlk day Becaus it was fund that sume silver wes stollen out of the boxe the Sessioune entered in tyrell yrof & heiring tell that wer lichts sene in the Kirke laite in the nicht they having sumoned psones qa saw the lichts before thame to wit Alexr hendersone gardner Williame crawfurde & Williame Tod & Patrick Porteous.

The qlk day copeired Alexr hendersone gardner of the age of furtie Zeires, a maryed man, And being sworne he deponit That vpone Wedinsday wes tuentis dayes being the 26 November last bypast he cuming throche the Kirke zairde efter ten hors at evin he hard ane rumlin in the kirke and saw licht in the counselhouse And that efter he had strucken ane horse qlk he saw in the kirkzairde with a battoune qlk he had in his hand the lichts went furth, the kirke dores being close.

The said day Williame Crawfurde a maryed man of the age of fourscore aucht zeires copeirit, And being sworne deponit That about six oulkes (*i,e.*, weeks) before this day he saw about alevin hors at evin a licht in the counselhouse, luking furth at the schot of the foirstair of his awin house, And therefter about tuentie Dayes syne betueine ane efter midnicht and thrie hors in the morning the said Williame deponit that he and his Wyfe saw lichts lykewayes in the counselhouse.

The said day Patrik porteous a maryed man of the age of fyftie zeires being sworne deponit that about ane moneth syne about tue hors in the morning he saw licht in the counselhouse.

Decemb. 23rd 1606.—The qlk day efter sermone Mr Johne Murray minister, & Mr Williame Strang Reader and clerke to the Sessioune and a number of the elders being coveinit in the counselhouse, compeirit Williame Tod ane unmaryed man of the age of threttie zeirs and being sworne deponit That about fyve oulkes since quhen he wes cuming throche the kirkzairde about alevin hors at evin he saw licht in the counselhouse.

Januarij 2nd, 1607.—The qlk day Robert Mitchell kirk officer being examined gif he knew any wayes how the lichts cam in the cownsell house of the kirk qr the boxes wer keiped at sic time of nicht as the foir-said witnesses being sworne deponit, seing he keiped the keyes baith of the kirk dore and cownsell house dore or gif he knew any wayes qa were the steillers away af the silver qlk wes wanting out of the boxes extending to the sowme of . . . . . seeing he made the keyes to the kist & boxes qr the silver wes keiped The said Robert constantlie denying that he knew any thing of that mater he wes suependit fra his office be the Sessioune till farther tryell be had heiranent and he fund cleine.

februarij 20th 1607.—The said day the Sessioune voted and concludit that Robert Mitchell kirke officer sall be deposed from his office becaus of his misbehavior to the Sessioune publiklie, and to syndrie particular members of the sume privatlie, anent the mater of his tryell about the silver qlk wes stollen out of the boxes.

Aprilis 10*th* 1607.—The said day Williame Clappertoune tymberman in Leyth wes admitted be the haill Sessioune of South Kirke of Leyt to be thair officer Provyding he sall be continewed in the said office or removit thairfra at the pleasor of the said Sessioune And lykewayes that he sall discharge his dewtie faithfullie in all poyntes And namelie in thir particulars efter specifeit That is to say he sall open the kirke dores tymouslie, he sall halde the kirke and the daskes cleine, he sall cawse ring the bells tymouslie, he sall kepe the kirke zairde (*i.e.*, yard) cleine and suffer no beistes to haunt thairin, He sall vaike (*i.e.*, wait) wpon the Reader and execute all offices and commissiounes qlk he sall give to him from the Sessioune.

Aprilis 24*th* 1607.—The qlk day compeirit Geirge Logane of Bonytoune and being challengit for misbehaving himselfe in the kirke wpon Sonday last was, in that he removit Adame thomesone maltman violentlie out of ane saite in the kirke (qlk saite is the formest daske under the Tailzors Loft) He submitted himselfe wnto the Sessioune to be censurit be thame notwithstanding he was not or (*i.e.*, our) parochiner Quha decernit him to confesse his fault, to pay ane pecuniall sowme to the pure And to abstene fra that saite in tyme cuming The qlk he presentlie obeyit in confessing his fault in giving offence be his misbehavior in the kirke about the foirsaid daske wpon Sonday last was efternoone betuix the first and seconde bell to the preitching, he payit Tuentie pund to the pure and promeisit to abstene fra that saite in tymes cuming and lyke wayes to cause his sones absteine thairfra.

Sicklyke the Sessioune ordained Adame thomesone and his sones to abstane thairfra, for eschewing of cotentioune in all tyme cuming except they agreit to sit togeither as Neybors & gude friendes.

(*Note.*—The Logans of Bonnington were a branch of the Logan family. They had owned Bonnington Mills since 1128. Bonnington House was removed about 20 years ago when part of Graham Street was built.)

26*th Septemb.* 1607.—The qlk day it was ordained be the Sessioune that the bellman of the kirke sowld not proveine (*i.e.* anticipate) the hour appoynted be the Sessioune in ringing the bell to the evening prayers any suner nor the appoynted tyme for any buriall quhatsumever: Bot he gat licence to ring the bell at tua efternoone for ane buriall gif the friendes of any defunct requyred the same.

Novemb. 27*th* 1607.—The qlk day Robert dunlope teacher of ane schoole in Restalrig wes rebuked for reading the prayers for the space of ane moneth bygane in thair Ile (*i.e.*, aisle) wpon the Sabboth dayes without any lawfull calling & wes dischairgit to do the lyke in tyme cuming.

26*th februarij* 1608.—The Sessioune requcisted Mr Williame Strang thair Reader to teache wpon sume place of Scripture for the Instructionne & edificaoune of the people everie Sabboth day at morne Qlk the said Mr Williame obeyit efter that he had obtainit licence of the Presbytrie the next Tuysday being the first day of Marche.

21*st Augusti* 1608.—The said day Johne Lord Maxwell & Charles Maxwell of Kirkehouse were publiklie cited out of the pulpit to schaw thair unfeinzed repentance for thair trayterous slauchter of Sir James Johnstone of Dunskellie, knicht, the 18 day of October nixt in the eist Kirk of Edr with certificaone.

(*Note.*—This murder is well known in Border history.)

25*th Septembris* 1608.—The said day the Lords Supper was celebrated.

(*Note.*—This is the first mention of the Sacrament in the Records.)

2*nd Octobris* 1608.—The Qlk day publik Intimaoune wes made of the excomunicaoune of Williame Earle of Anguss for papistrie And of excomunicaoune of Williame Steward for the slauchter of wmqll. James dowglas Lord Carlill according to the ordinance of the Presbytrie Septeb., 27, 1608.

(*Note.*—William Stewart slew Lord Carlyle as he was walking along the High Street of Edinburgh. Lord Carlyle's tomb may still be seen in the nave of Holyrood Abbey.)

30*th Octobris* 1608.—The qlk day Intimaoune was made in or Kirke publiklie efter the sermone before noone That John Lord Maxwell & Charles Maxwell of Kirkehouse wer excomunicat in the Eist Kirke of Edr the 23 of October Becaus being lawfullie warnit wpon thrie score days wnder the pane

of excomunicaoune to have copierit in the said Kirke to schaw thair wnfeinzied repentance for thair Trayterous slauchter of umqll Sr James Johnsstoune of dunskellie Knycht, they copeirit not.

6*th Novembris* 1608.—The qlk day publik Intimaone wes made in or Kirke That frances Earle of Errol wes excomunicat in St. Johnestoune for his obstinacie in Papistrie.

1*st Januarij* 1609.—The said day Patrick Meine Johne Meine, Bartlemew Meine & Williame Meine lawfull sones to Johne Meine, elder, cowper in Leyth confessit thair fault before the haill congregatioune in trubling of the toune wnder silence of nicht betuix nyne and allevin houres at evin about ane quarter of ane zeir syne (*i.e.*, year since) or thairby And in scheding of blude that nicht especiallie of Robert Orokesone to Capitane David Oroke. They cravit god mercie for thair fault, And humblie desyrit the said Robert Oroke and his father to forgive thame And the congregatioune quhom they offendit be thair misbehaviour. Robert Oroke and his father received thame, and take everie ane of thame be the hand And they made ane solemne promeise to Keipe gude ordour in tymes cuming.

13*th Januarii* 1609.—It is ordained be the Sessione that all the wrytes belonging to the Sessioune and Kirk of Leith as weill obligatones as Infeftments sall be put in ane box togither with ane Inventor of the saids wrytes And this boxe to have four keyes to be put in the four callings hands And the boxe to be keiped be sic ane man as Mr Johne Murray and the Sessiounne shall agrie upon provyding that he that keips the boxe shall give an inventor subscryvit wt his awin hand of the haill richts conteinit in the same.

(*Note.*—The four callings were the four incorporations of the town, viz., mariners, maltmen, traffickers, and crafts or tradesmen. These included all the inhabitants. Mr Murray was minister of the second charge.)

The Sessioune ordaines George Logane John Gilchryst David Hamiltoune and Henrie Walker to speike Mr John Murray or Minister now presentlie Wardit in the Castell of Edr anent the said mater and to report his anser the next day.

(*Note.*—Mr Murray was imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle for about a year because of his opposition to Episcopacy. He was released on condition that he should "preach not and goe not to Leith.")

20*th Januarii* 1609.—It was reportit be John Gilchryst and the rest that were ordained to speik Mr John Murray That Mr Johne wes content of that qlk wes concludit the last day be the Sessiounne anenting the keiping of the wrytes belonging to the Kirk and Sessiounne of Leyth into ane boxe And that the said Mr Johne gave his vote to Abraham Wauchope to be the keiper of the boxe. To the qlk the Sessiounne agreed. The Sessioun names for the keiping of the keyes of the said box for the Maisteris and Marineris Gilbert Lambe for the Maltmen Johne Mathewsoune for the Traffickers John Gilchryst for the Crafts David Hamiltoune.

20*th Januarii* 1609. — The said day copeired Samuel Ker ane maryed man above threttie zeirs of age and being sworne deponed that he knew that Johne Spense sumetyme husband to Marioune Richiesoune deyed (*i.e.*, died) about thrie zeirs sensyne in ane voyage passing from deipe to Pizza in Capitane Robert Mitchell's schippe of deipe And that his kist and claithes came backe in the foirsaid schippe to the honest woman with quhom he was ludged And thairfore the Sessione grantes licenee to her to be maryed with Robert Moresone with quhom the said Marioune Richiesone wes thryse lawfullie proclamed And na impediment alledgit be any quhy they micht not be Lawfullie maryed togither safe this of the wncertaintie of the deth of her last husband qlk is now made cleir be the depositione of the said Samuell Ker Mariner in Leyth.

Julij 14*th* 1609.—Ressavit of pure silver frae William Sinclair . . . 1 lib 13s. 4d. for the repairing frae Thomas Harley, 4 lib. 4s. Visitors for the next day David Jamesone Younger and William Bickartoune for the repairing William Gibson.

(*Note.*—*Lib* is pounds. The money referred to is Scots money, value only one-twelfth part of sterling money. The visitors collected for the poor and for the fabric of the church. The Kirk Session had the duty of providing for the poor as the Parish Council now have.)

The qlk day the Tymbermen gav in ane bill desyring the Sessiounne to pay for the

repairing of their Isle the expenses qrf extendit to Elevin pounds The Sessioune grantit to giv them Sex pound onlie for the present upon condition they suld repair the said Isle in time coming and that they altered not the seit within the Kirk the qlk sex lib wes delyverit presentlie to them.

Remember Abraham Wauchope to get out twa or thrie Extracts of the Act of Parliament made in favor of or Kirk qrby it is erected in ane Parishe Kirke and the parsonage of Restalrig annexit to it in this last.

(*Note.*—This is the Act of 24 June 1609.)

21*st July* 1609.—The said Mr David Lyndsay zunger protested before the haill Sessioune That his entring to the Ministrie at this South Kirke of Leyth suld not be prejudiciall to Mr Johne Murray either in his place or stipend quhen it sall pleis god and his the King's Majestie to send him backe agane to serve God in his Ministrie at this Kirke.

The said day Thir persones following were nominated to receive the said Mr David Lyndsay in name of the haill Sessioune, as Pastor and Minister of the South Kirke of Leyth wpon the day of his admissioune qlk is to be godwilling wpon the 30th day of Julie instant To wit. (Then follow several names.)

30*th Julij* 1609.—Wpon the qlk day Mr David Lyndsay zunger (sumetyme Minister at St. Andrewes & thairefter at forgowne) wes admitted to be Minister at the South Kirke of Leyth be Mr James Law Bishop of Orkney (quha wes directed be the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie to that effect) The qlk Ministrie the said Mr David Lyndsay accepted & wes received be ane certane number of the elders quha wer before nominat in the Sessione for that purpose.

Wryttin by me Mr William Strang, Reader and clerke to the Sessioune sen the first day of November in the zeir of god 1606.

(*Note.*—This David Lindsay occupied the second charge until 1613 when he was transferred to the first charge upon the death of his father, the famous David Lindsay, first Protestant minister of South Leith.)

4 *Augusti* 1609.—The Sessioune ordaines the Workmen of this toune to be examined everie Sabboth day at foir hors at evin in Wynter & fyve hors evin in Somer & the absents to pay fyve schillings.

Ordaines the Last bell to the preiching wpon the Sabboth day to be rung at Nyne hors in Somer & at halfe hor to Ten in Wynter and ye last bell efternoone to ringe ane half hor to tua.

The said day being the fourth of August the Sessione ordaines Mariage and baptisme to be celebrat wpon Tuysday efter the sermone And the baptisme wpon the Sabbath day to be ministred efter the ending of the efternoones sermone.

Item the Sessioune ordaines the Comunioune to be celebrat Tuyse everie zeir, first in februar or Marche and thaireftir in August.

Item ordaines Catechising ouklie (*i.e.*, weekly) wpon Wednisday & Thurisday at nicht besydes the the Sabbath dayes catechising.

(*Note.*—There was a week day service on Tuesdays.)

XI *Augusti* 1609.—The Baillie at the requeist of the Sessioune hes granted That wncouth beggars quha resorts heir wpon the Sabbath day sall be comitted to warde (*i.e.*, prison) & remane thair till six hours at evin.

27 *Augusti* 1609.—The said day the Lords Supper wes ministred and thir penitents wer received, to wit, John Davie, Margaret Watson, Marioune Watson, Robert Parke.

10 *Septembris* 1609.—This was the second day wpon the qlk the Sacramet of the Lords Supper wes ministred.

The said day thir penitents wer received, to wit, Matheu Sluman, Margaret Sowter, James Lessills, and Margaret Ree.

22 *Septebris* 1609.—for the better observaone of the ouklie catechising It is ordained that everie aucht oulkes the haill toune sall present thame selfes to the examinaones, And sa that everie quarter sall have tua severall oulkes of catechising wpon the Sabbath day Wednisday & Thurisday at nicht At the qlk tymes the Masters or Mastresses of the families sall present thair howsholdes And everie Master or Mastres that sall be absent qn they ar warned sall pay thrie *s* 4d. And the servand Tua *s.*

8 *Octobris* 1609.—Intimatioune wes made be the Minister out of the pulpite That gif any

persone within this congregaoune sall play publiklie at games wpon the Sabbath day Thay sall pay Tuentie *s* of penaltie & also make thair publik repetance before the pulpite wpon the Sabbath day before noone.

10*th November* 1609.—Robert Galbraith pr (*i.e.*, parishioner) of Kircaldie & Magdalene de Plancas. Ordaines them to cosigne ane pand & the said Robert to get a testl. (*i.e.*, testimonial) of his mothers cosent. There foirsaid persones wer cotracted privatlie in the house before the Minister Mr David Lyndsay Zungr Johne bellendene Patrike Scot George Thomsone Williame bickarstoune & me Mr Williame Strang Reader and clerke to the Sessioune. Thay payit 6 lib to the pure qlk I delyverit to the minister before the foirsaid psones.

(*Note.*—It was usual to lodge pawns or pledges to implement contracts to marry. The Bellenden family at this time occupied Hillhousefield House.)

Nov. 10 1609.—Thomas Miller & Elspeth Cuke. Ordaines . . . that he sall leirne the comands under the pane of 40 *ls.*

(*Note.*—This refers to parties desirous to be married.)

17*th Novembris* 1609.—The qlk day Abrahame Wauchope producit the boxe qrin (*i.e.*, wherein) the wrytes ar belonging to the Sessioune & Kirk of Leyth qlk boxe togither wt the saids wrytes therein conteinit wes delyvrit to Gilbert Lambe be pluralitie of votes of the Sessioune for ane zeir to cum.

The Sessioune names thir persones to be keipers of the keyes of the said boxe Johne Mathesone James Liddell frances Wades Hew Lyall, ane key was delyvered to everie ane of thame.

The said day Abrahame Wauchope delyvered thir obligatiounes to Gilbert Lamb before the Sessioune qrin the persones following as principall debtors wer bund & obleist to the Sessioune of the Kirke for the sowmes efter expreimit to wit.

The first obligaone of Robert Mortounes for fyve hundreth merks agane Whitsonday.

The seconde obligaone of the gudeman of Cotfieldis for sex hundreth merks agane Whitsonday.

The thrid of George Thomsone for ane thousand pund till Whitsonday.

The fourt of James Nisbit & George Wauchope for fyve hundreth merkes.

The fyft of Alexr. Hamiltounes for fyve hundreth merkes.

The sext of David Weymes for ane thousand merkes.

(*Note.*—A mark was equal to 13s. 4d. Scots money. This is the first statement of the accounts of the Session.)

8*th December* 1609.—William Porteous & Margaret Ramsay Ordained the man to get cosent of his father & the woman of her mother, and to cosigne ane pand before they be proclaimed.

8 *Decebris* 1609.—The Sessione ordaines That these quha gois to any pastyme qn they suld be present at the Sessione to pay fourtie peneyes wnforgiven.

22*nd decemb* 1609.—The Baillie James forman hes promised that thair sall na boates passe over the water (*i.e.*, the Firth of Forth) wpon any Sabbath day in tymes cuming And gif any passe over the Baillie hes promisit to pay four merkes for everie boate that passes over.

Jan. 12 1610.—Robert Thomsoune pr of Prestoune Panes & Helene Carrike in this parische—Ordaines the ma to get his mothers cosent & thame baith to get (*i.e.*, learn) the commands perfytlie.

16 *februarij* 1610.—The qlk day sa many elders of the Sessioune as wer Maltmen promised that qn any of thair pure servandes or wha hes beine laitlie in thair service deyes in Leith That they sall furnische all things necessar for thair buriall, Provyding that wther callings (*i.e.*, incorporations) do the lyke.

The said day it wes concludit be the haill Sessioune, that thair sall be na public playing suffred on the Sabbath dayes As playing at the valley bowles, at the peney stane, archerie, gowfe, &c. And gif any beis fund playing publiklie in ane Zaird (*i.e.*, yard) or in the feildes wpon ane Sabbath day fra morne till even That they sall pay xx *s* to the pure, and also make thair publik repentance before the pulpite. And thairfore Marioune Mowbray wes dischairgit to suffer any to play in her Zaird wpon any Sabbath day fra morne to evin wnder the lyke paine.

3 *April* 1610.—The Session finding the Grammar Schoole and readers places vaikand requystes the minister vith al possible diligence to find out men meit for the places, beseiking Mr Thomas Barcklay also to wryt to Aberdene for ane man may both reid and teache musick.

6 *May* 1610.—Mr Thomas Barclay is requisted to send his servant to Aberdene for ane man to be reader and musicianer, and the Session orders him to have twelf pound for his expensis. Siclyk the minister is desyred to vryt for a mr. (*i.e.*, master).

(*Note.*—The Kirk Session had the duty of providing for education in the Parish as the School Boards now have. There were two schools, viz., a grammar school, and a vulgar or music school. The former was taught by a master, the latter by the Reader or Session Clerk.)

1 *June* 1610.—*Memorareter* to speik the bailze anent the officers for their abusing and sharffin of the people so aften zeirlie.

8 *June* 1610.—The bealzie has promised to tak suche ordour with the officers that hereafter yaj sal not truble the town be scoting any thing fra the neighbours but once in the zeir.

(*Note.*—These two minutes refer to the taxing of the people.)

7 *December* 1610.—The qlk day copeired James Robertsone, Jhone Lentrek, John Huttoune, and Alexr Stirk confessed they had prophaned the Sabbath be playing at the gowffe in tyme off preaching and thairfore was ordained to mak thair publict repentance the nixt Sabboth.

29 *June* 1611.—Mr Gerome Lindsay hes promeist to present Robert Blunt servuitor to ye Bischop of Glascow vpon ye 5 of July.

(*Note.*—Jerome Lindsay was son of the famous David Lindsay, and became afterwards Sir Jerome Lindsay. He figures very prominently in later minutes.)

5 *July* 1611.—The Sessioun ordaines ye Bischop of glasgow to represent his servand befoir ye Sessioune wtherways they will delait (*i.e.*, accuse) him to ye ministrie of edinburghe.

12 *July* 1611.—Robert Blunt called and not compeirit and Mr Jerome Lindsay hes taikin vpoun him to cause him copeir upon sonday.

19 *July* 1611.—Rot. Blunt beinge chairgit to copeir it is fund yt he is riding to London.

2 *August* 1611.—Ordaines ye haill tauernours (*i.e.*, tavern keepers) to be warnit againe yis day 8 dayis saif Johne Younger and in speciall Sara Robertson and Niniane Brune in qais houss ye last Sounday they war found drinkinge.

The Sessioun ordaines yt quha soeuer remaines away frome ye comunion sall pay tuenty *s* and mak yair publict repentance.

9 *August* 1611.—The bailzie promeist to cause poynd ye haill tauernors yt compeirit not this day beinge warnit.

23 *August* 1611.—The qld day Androw Chrystie Induellar in Leithe for satesfeinge ane pairt of that decreit pronuncit aganes him be our souerane Lords most honll privie counsell Compeired befoir ye pulpeit of Leith efter sermon befoir noone and yt in pnts (*i.e.*, presence) of ye haill congregation Vpoun his Knees confessit his Sin comited againes God and ye offence doune to Johne Ruell nytbour of ye said Toun, in puttinge violent hands on ye said Jon in ye mont of July last was, creawinge mercy at gods hands for Chrysts saik and for his said sin and desyringe ye said Johne to remitt ye offence doune to him, and ye haill congregaoun to pray for him yt nather he nor any wyr (*i.e.*, other) fall in ye lyk qrvpoun ye said Jon freily remitted all revange and Injury doune to him be ye said Androw and in taiking (*i.e.*, token) heirof tuik him be ye hand in pnts of ye congregaoun foir said.

24 *January* 1612.—The Sessioun ordaines yat ye poore younge boyes of ye toune be weisseited (*i.e.*, visited) and taking ordour withe and put to ye scoills (*i.e.*, schools).

31 *January* 1612.—The Sessioun ordaines thois to be warnit quhome ye poore bairnes remaines withall to sie if yr parentis may find thame or nought.

15*th May* 1612.—Compeired Elspet Steward and is ordained to gange to Elspet Lyndsayes stair fute where she offendit hir, and sall sit doun vpoune hir Kneis and ask hir forgivnes where she offendit hir and is ordained to remufe

(*i.e.*, remove) hir self out of ye toune betuix this and Witsonday nixt and is comitted to ye maiistrat to sie yir thinges put to executioune.

22 *May* 1612.—Ordaines ye Cordeneris (*i.e.*, shoemakers) to be warnit to compeir yis day 8 dayis.

3 *July* 1612.—Ordaines the haill Cordenares to be warned and if they satisfie not ye sessione the Sessioune ordaines their Desk to be takene.

24 *of July* 1612.—The Sessioune vpoun ye honest requeist of ye guidma of Coatfeild of ane buriall place to his wyf, hes granted him libertie to bige ane tombe ye breid of four kists of ye wall, and not to be ane proper place to any wther but only to be ane heritable buriall place to him and his prosteritie in all tyme cominge and gives to ye poore the soume of . . .

(*Note.*—The "guidman" of Coatfield was Andrew Logan, a branch of the Logans of Restalrig. His family had been lairds of Coatfield since 1470, in which year Patrick Logan of Coatfield was Baillie of Leith.)

18 *September* 1612.—Compeired David Gordonne and being inquyred for beinge out of ye Kirk on ye Sabothe day ansred that he was seik, and ye sessioun cosidderinge it to be trew they have admonished him if they find ye lyk he sall be wnder ye censure of ye Kirk.

25 *September* 1612.—Compeired Johne Thomsoune and beinge inquyred why he would not communicate, refuiesed all togither, and playnly said he sould never wntill that they who haid offended him maid him ane amends and that he was equall withe them and that he would not be compelled to the same and that it was ane evill Lawe that was in ye cuntrie to compell men to comunicate notwithstandinge of deadlie feid (*i.e.*, feud).

Compeired Hendrie Nicoll and beinge inquyred wherfor he would not communicait ansred that he was not redie and that he would not acknowledge the sessioun of Leithe and that we desyred no man to dwell besyde us but sik men as our selffes and beinge chairged to compeir this day 8 dayes ansrit that it was in his awin good will if he would come or no.

2 *October* 1612.—Compeired Hendrie nicoll and band himselffe that heir efter he sould be ane dilligent heerer of ye word and to receaue ye Sacramet wt ye rest of ye Congregatioune and sall lead ane peacabill lyfe withe his wyffe and incaice he sall faile (qlk god forbid) he sall be subiect to ye sensure of ye Kirk (signed) Henrie nicoll.

Penult of October 1612.—The Sessione ordaines ye examinatiounes to begine in the Tolbuithe at Mertimes, and to continew till ye communioune be given and wha soeuer disobeyes, and cumes not sall pay of penaltie 2*s* for ye first fault and yrefter sall be in ye sessiounes will.

(*Note.*—The Tolbooth, built in the reign of Queen Mary, stood in Tolbooth Wynd. It was removed in 1817, and a new one erected on the same site. This has now been adapted to other uses, including that of a public library.)

15 *January* 1613.—The Sessioune requeists ye bailzie David alshoner to aduyse wt ye counsell of edr (*i.e.*, Edinburgh) to see what ordour may be takine wt Johne Schot for ye putinge violent hands on him selfe to haue slaine him selfe.

22 *of Januarij* 1613.—The Session ordaines that all callings or others dwelling wtin this congregation having Seats or Loftes within yr Kirk sall keip thir placis upn the oulk (*i.e.*, week) dayes, as they do on ye Sabothe day; and ye Ministere to intimat ye same out of ye Pulpite.

5 *February* 1613.—John Dallinge, tailzor (*i.e.*, tailor) copeired and acted him selfe to ye maiestrat and ye sessioune yt if euer ony wagabounde or forebodinge persoune sall ludge or frequet in his house heirefter he sall be banished ye toune perpetuallie.

Ordaines Nichol Archbald and his wyffe to present thair testimonialls against yis day monthe of their honest behauior. And they bothe grantes theme selfess to be acted befoir ye haill sessioun never to reset any sturdie beggar within yair hous nather be night or be day, and as also to beare ane honest behauior towards Robert Rull, and sall not trubill him be word nor be dead vnder ye pain of publicte repentance and yrefter banishment.

25 *March* 1613.—Compeired Wm. Stewart and hes promesed to communicat ye nixt comunioune day, and sall be ane diligent hearer of ye word and of ye examinatiounes.

The sessioune requeists George Smellome and Alexr hamiltoune wt ye minister to desyre Johne Thomsoune and James Douglas to communicat, wtherwayes to tak protestatioune if he refuiss that we proseid withe forder order.

2 *April* 1613.—The Minister repoirtes that Johne Thomsoune hes promeised to prepair him selffe to communicate against ye nixt comunioune day.

Compeired Johne Hereis and is becum acted that if euer he heirefter sall be hard ding (*i.e.*, strike) or be found dinginge of his wyfe he sall be removed out of yis toune and nevir to be suffered to cum into yis toune heirefter.

9 *of Apryll* 1613.—The Sessioun ordaines that no man put up any Seat or take downe any Seate within the Kirk without ane licence given and granted be the Sessione under the sensuringe of the Session in all tyme comings as also ten pounds to the poore and to make their public repentance in the pillar als weel the bigger (*i.e.*, builder) as he causes bigge.

16 *April* 1613.—The sessioune cosidderinge ye zelouse and godlie sute of ye sessioun of edr anent ye prophaniage of ye sabothe be suche of yr congregaoune resoirtes to yis toune hes ordained that euerie sabothe for ye space of ane month to cum Aught of yr number sall dilligently befoir and efter noone veiseit yr haill bounds of yis Toune specially ye houss of sic as wentes (*i.e.*, vends) vyne and aill, And sall ouklie give in ye names of sic of ye cogregaoune of edr sall be founde prophaninge ye sabothe heir. The sessioun of Leithe requeists ye Kirk of edr that they may haue tuo of yr number, for ye better tryall of sic trasgressors concurringe wt our visitoures for ye space of ane month foirsaide.

23 *April* 1613.—The Sessioun ordaines four scoir mks to James Sanders for byinge of ane pair of double wirgenels for yr musick scool and Leithe put on theme.

(*Note.*—Virginals were musical instruments.)

14 *of May* 1613.—The Sessiounne ordaines the seat that the Ladie Pilrig sat into to be gevine to her and ane doore to be put uponne the same and the Kirk officer to keipe the keyes and this seat no longer to be hers then the Sessiounne sall think weil and expedient and the maisteres.

(*Note.*—Pilrig at this date belonged to the family of Monypenny.)

3 *September* 1613.—The qlk day ye sessioune beinge informit of sum insolence at lykwaikes comitted laitlie, they have ordained, yt quhosoeuer sall comit suche lyk in any tyme cuminge sall be wairded (*i.e.*, imprisoned) of yair persounes as also sall pay ane pecuniall soume accordinge to their habiletie—and this to be Intimat be the minister on sonday next out of ye pulpeit.

Compeired Jannet Porteous, and beinge found to have comitted insolence at ane lykwaik on ye sabothe day, is ordained to cum vpoune sonday nixt efter ye sermone befoir noone and cofess her fault and craive god mcy and ye cogregatioune.

(*Note.*—"Lykwakes" mean body wakes, *i.e.*, assemblies of persons in the death chamber to watch the dead body. The "insolence" here referred to was probably drunkenness.)

5*th November* 1613.—To discharge all ye nytbors (*i.e.*, neighbours) to bring dogs to ye kirk wt ctificaoun yei salbe slane & ye awners punishit.

15 *November* 1613.—To desyre the neighbours to convene the next Sabbath day efter the Sermone efter nine in the eist end of the kirk to gif ane answer to the Presbyterie anent ane second minister.

11 *of Febry.* 1614.—The Sessioune requists yr Magistrates and ye Ministeres to speik ye Maister of Wark annent ye Kirk.

25 *of Feby.* 1614.—The Sessioune ordained James Chalmers to pass to those wha hes locket seates within ye kirk and to get the keys of them and opene them everie preachinge day at the seconde bell.

1 *of Apryl* 1614.—The qlk day the neighbours choisen for advysing uponne the repairing of the Kirk requested the Sessione to provyd *primo quoque tempore* the haill accounts of the repairing Silver qlk as yet rests unbestowed

upon the Kirk and upon furnishings for the same to the end the foresaid Wark in Gods might may be with Gods blessinge begunne.

The Sessione ordaines the book of repairings to be shewit and the particular repairings according to their several dayes extracted to the end the haill silver qlk will be found unbestowed alredie be provydit and waired upon the foresaid Warke wherewith the said neighbours are content.

15*th April* 1614.—The sessioun ordaines David Hamiltoune frances Waldy to sie and tast Patrik zuills wyne and provyd ane trie (*i.e.* barrel) to hauld ye same Robert fluiker and thomas Watsoune to prepair ye breid for ye comunioun and to serve ye tabill James Lookwp and patrik zuill till delyner the wyne. For ye Repairinge and poore vpoun ye comunio day (six elders' names) for ye resaiueing of ye Tickets (six names) To stand at ye heid Tabill Gilbert Lambe John Mathesoune.

15 *April* 1614.—The qlk day the sessioune receaiued ane letter from Margrat Tod relict of James Hay desyrenge ye sessioune to tak her sone and put him to ye scooll in respect his father was ye Tounes servant, and deed in yair service. The sessioune all in one voyce hes cosented to tak ye boy and to put him to ye scooll and ordaines ane letter to be send to her for the boy.

6 *of May* 1614.—The Session ordained that the hail space induring the repairing of the Kirk and building of the Steipel that ouklie there shall be ane cejs (*i.e.*, tax) upon Thursday and Fryday for the Collection to the repairinge for furdering of the said Worke.

(*Note.*—This steeple stood until 1674, when it was rebuilt.)

8 *July* 1614.—The qlk day the Sessioune with advyse of the neighbours ordaines the Wark of the Steipell to stay till the next advysement and als the ruiffe (*i.e.*, roof) of the Kirk to be begun til and to be finished so far as they may both above and beneath in the Tyles.

15 *July* 1614.—The quhilk day ye Bailzies delyvered to thesaurer James Matheson thrie hundred punds of the wyne silver resaved of the year of God one thousand sex hundred and thretten to be employed uponne the repairinge upon the ruiffe of the Kirk.

(*Note.*—The "wine silver" was the tax or impost on wine to which the Session had right. It amounted to £4 Scots for every tun of wine "ventit and run" within the town. From numerous Minutes, some of which will be given later, it appears that the collection of this tax was a matter of tremendous difficulty, and finally it was given up altogether. This Minute gives an idea of the trade in wine at this time.)

5 *October* 1614.—The Sessioun thought it meit seinge gods Judgmets approching that yair sould a fast begine vpon thuirsday yrafter and teachinge sould be vpon ye said day & vpon setterday efternoon & vpo sonday yreft ane fast & humiliaoun yt god of his mcy would avert and schaw sum pity vpoun ws.

(*Note.*—The Kirk Session were expecting some great calamity, perhaps the end of the world.)

29 *of December* 1614.—It is ordained be the consent of the Session that the haill repairing sall be sequestrate (*i.e.*, separated) from the poore silver and the penalties also with the impost of the Wyne with the legasies from the first of November last by past and keiped for the relieving of the money borrowed and the haill other affairs.

29 *December* 1614.—James Hoome and Jon Duff to serve at the Tables Archibald Gibson and John Mortoun to attend ye tables and ye said four to collect to the poore and repairinge wt David Thomson and John Steward and Andro Gray.

Penultimis Decembris 1614.—The qlk day with uniform consent of all John Ochiltree was choisen to be Keeper and Collector of the hail repairinge unlaws (*i.e.*, fines) legasies & Impost of the Wyne according to the Act of the Sequestrating maid thereanent.

5 *January* 1615.—The Session ordaines in respect of ye misbehaviour of those in Restalrige that quhatsoeuer persoun resorts not to ye Kirk on ye sabot and as occasioun serves on wyr oulk dayes salbe depryved of all benefeit of yis kirk and ye Minist to mak intimaoun of ye same out of ye pulpit.

The qlk day ye sessioun out of a regaird yei have to ye reverance of gods word & sacramets and yt cumliness sould be keeped wtin ye door of gods santuary ordaines yat nane tak vpoun them to walk in any pt of ye kirk in tyme of readinge or singinge administraoun of ye sacramets or solemneisynge of mariage, and yt ye same be intimat out of ye pulpeit be ye Minister.

12 *of Januarij* 1615.—The Sessiounne ordaines in respect of ye cuming in to ye Kirk yat ye Minister sall intimat out of the Pulpeit yat yr cum all in at ye 2 bell as also yat no honest woman nor any othrs sit at ye back syd but resort and sit in ye bodie of ye Kirk under ye paine following.

19 *of Januarij* 1615.—Those who attended uponne the tabills and were collectors and receavers of the Tickets abefoir bothe for poore and for repairinge sall serve also.

26 *of Januarij* 1615.—To ye poore Rot Flucker Thomas Dickson To ye repairinge Jon Gourlay.

(*Note.*—As stated above there were collectors for the poor of the Parish and for the Church which seems to have been in a chronic state of disrepair.)

16 *of Appryll* 1615.—Collectours for ye Voluntary contributiones choissen for Maisters James Home, Alexr Davy—Abraham Wauchope and James Liddell for ye Traffickers for ye maltmen John Ballandene Wm. Logane for ye Craftsmen David Hamilton Rot Flucker for the Meilmen Hendrie Fraser he is choisen to gange with the Maltmen. The choisen with ye haill consent of ye neighbours and to effect ye same may be ye better prosequit and finished ye Minister Maister David Lindsay hes promesit to advertyse publicklie out of ye pulpeit to ye haill congregation uponne Sunday next to desyre ye people to help wt yr charity yis worthie Work.

17 *of Apryll* 1615.—Ye qlk day in presence of ye Session and neighbours Johne Ochiltree his intromissions with the sequestrate money of ye Repairinge unlawes and legasies frome ye 29 of Decr. to this present day his intromissions extends to thrie hundred two pounds aughteen.

Primo Junij 1615.—Appoynts ye Ministers wt Wm. Duff Arch. Gibsone and Patrick Glasfurde to pass and request ye Counsell of Edinr. for advancement of ye first qrters dewtie of the impost (*i.e.*, wine tax) for payment of ye Workman.

15 *Junij* 1615.—The Sessionne ordaines Wm. Duff Thesaurer to give ane acquitance of four scorr 4 lb. pounds to ye Magistrates qlk they sould give to Andrew Hendersone of ye Impost of ye Wwyne silver, and yat for sclaitinge (*i.e.*, slates) of ye Kirk Work.

22 *of Junij* 1615.—Wm. Duff Theasurer is ordained to receive ane warrand from ye Clerk to receive ye annual of Sex thousand mks money from ye Good Man of Coatfield at ye present terme of Whitsunday 1615, to wit, three hundt. mks and to give him acquittance in name of ye Session.

29 *of Junij* 1615.—The Session ordaines the Auditors of ye compts to be warned to heir ye compts uponne Fryday nixt to be in ye Session house at 5 hours for heiring ye Steipell and Kirk compts, to wit, ye Sessiounne and ye twelff Men with aught of the last Sessioune.

20 *of Julij* 1615.—The Sessioune ordaines James Hoome Theasurer to enter Patrick Smythe to enter and hew ane Window to ye Southe Ill, (*i.e.*, aisle) as also to buy sum trees to sarve and make lathe of, and to fraught ye . . . and cause them bringe ane hundth aisler and sex lyntels out of ye Lyme kills.

(*Note.*—The blank is meant for the name of some boat which was to convey the wood probably from Fife.)

27 *of Julij* 1615.—James Hoome Theasurer is ordained to by four trees for toofalls to ye Kirk.

3 *August* 1615.—The qlk day in presence of James Lowrie Mark Grindlay Thomas Dawie the sessioun wt aduyse of ye maiest (*i.e.*, magistrates) cocluded in respect ye workmen of yis Toun most stubbornly hithertill haue refusit to set vp yair box for ye suppoirt of ye seik and decayinge nytbors & for ye honor of yr buryall. That the said warkmen sall be depryved of all

benefit of ye Kirk viz. of Comunioun, baptyme, mariage and buryall wtin ye kirkyaird ay & qll ye said box be set vp for ye vss aboue speit (*i.e.*, specified) and yat yis act be intimat at ye first occasioun frome pulpeit.

Last of Augt. 1615.—The Session ordains James Horne to send ane boy to Dundie for furthering of Sclaits to cum heir yat ye Kirk wark may be entered to.

The neighbours to conveine ye nixt Sabbath day afternone to avise how money may be had for ye said Wark.

14 *of September* 1615.—The Act anent ye Workmen to be intimat upponne Sonday next and ye Magistrates requested to assist ye same.

For sa meikle as yis fourteene day of September 1615 years the neighbours underwritten they are to say David Jamieson Alexr. Bain James Hoome Rot. Sluss David Gairdner Jon. Baelandene James Mathesone Bartholl Jenkin Hendrie Walker George Thomsone James Liddell Alexr. Hamilton Abraham Wauchope Mr Jeremy Lindsay Mr John Elphinstone David Hamiltoun Francis Waldie Rot. Flucker Isack Johnstone Alexander Aldingstoun hes out of yat zeall and love that they carry to the Sanctuarie of God within yis toune repairinge and decoiringe yrof hes of their awen voluntar accord bound and obligt yeme selves yeir aires and executors to pay that thousand merks already lifted from Jon. Scougald that five hundred merks already lifted from Adam Thomsone and ane other thousand merks now to be lifted be them all for ye repairinge and decoiringe of ye said Kirke Therefore the Session with Speciall advyce of David Johnstone and Thomas Muir Baillzies be yir presents mak and constitut ye said neighbours & yr foresaids thair irrevocable Sessioners and Assignayes in and to ye haill impost of ye wynes to be vented within this toune and payed to them be the Counsell of Edr. and also ye haill repairinge Silver as ye plessour of God sall be collected at ye doores of ye said Kirk ay and qll ye said soume with ye annuells yrof be payed, thair entrie to be and begunne upon ye first of November to cum in yis present year 1615 and from yt to continue till yei be thankfully payed as said is.

(signed) Mr David Lindsay D. Johnstoun Baillie consentes Thomas Muir Baillie consentes Andrew Wal John Murray Francis Wilkie James Hoome William Duff Ia Anderis Witnejs.

(*Note.*—The repair of the church and building of the steeple seem to have been a matter of difficulty, causing the Session to go into debt. This deed shows that they raised the necessary funds on the security of the wine tax and the special collections.)

The Session ordaines James Hoome to deall with ye maistrattes for ye impost of ye Wyne for yis year bygane and that he pay George Archibald and Marion Purves of ye first end of ye said Impost.

23*rd of September* 1615.—The qlk day ye Sessioun and neighbours agreeit with Walter Learmond for out redding of ye haill tymber wark of ye porche with ye haill scaffalds and coverings of ye Windows for the soume of fifty poundes to be payed to him at ye finishinge of ye said Wark.

14 *of December* 1615.—To ye poore Jon. Gilchrist To ye repairinge David Hamiltoune *Memorandum* that on Friday last ye Session being conveined and finding themselves awand to thair Workmen fyv hundred merks ordour to be taken ye nixt dayes meitinge for lifting yrof that they may be payed.

8*th of Febii* 1616.—The qlk day in presence of the Maistrats the Sessioun in ane voyce (be consent of the Minister) ordained that uponne Sonday next efter ye efternoones sermone admonitions sould be maid frome pulpit be the minister that thei sould stay and intreat upon ane second minister to be ane helper to Mr David Lyndesay (in respect of his waiknessas him selfe declaired in presence of ye Sessioune and Magistrats) and also to settell yair Reader and scooles.

(*Note.*—This refers to the second David Lindsay, who had been sole minister since 1613. The Minutes of this time are defective, but it appears that Mr Thomas Hog, schoolmaster, became helper and second minister.)

29 *February* 1616.—The qlk day in respect of ye grose prophanaoun of ye sabothe

ye sessioun ordaines four wisitors to wisit euerie sabothe heirefter not only the haill streits but also ye particular houss withe in yis congregatioun.

29 *of Febrii* 1616.—The Sessioun hes ordained that there sal be ane Voluntare contribution collected through the haill toune for ye defraying of ye small debts of ye Kirk.

There is choisen for ye collection of ye same 2 for ye neighbours James Liddell Robert Grindlay for ye saillers James Hoome John Auchmulies 2 for ye Maltmen Johne Ballandene Wm. Logane for ye craftsmen David Hamiltoune Frances Waldie Robert Flucker William Matheson for ye Mealmen Piter Shaw Hendrie Fraser for the John Warthlaw James Hill and Lawrie Cochrane.

To ye poore James Mathesone Jon. Ochiltree.

To ye repairinge Thomas Lainge Younger.

The Session ordaines the old Act to be keiped qlk is yt yei qo collectis upon ye Sabothe sall collect upoun ye oulk day ye deaconis on ye oulk day for the repairinge only.

9 *May* 1616.—The sessioun hes ordained that yair sall be ane generall collectioun thraw ye toun (accordinge to ye directioun of ye assembly) for ye helpinge of the poore honest men that haid yr houss brunt in ye Potterraw and for yt purpois their is choisen . . . . (the collectors for the different quarters).

16 *May* 1616.—Appoints George Thomson David Hamiltoun and Mr John Elphinstoun to pas upon Weddinsday nixt to ye Counsell of Edinr to desyre ane command to ye baillies to delyvre ye last half zeires impost of ye wyne for paying debts.

(*Note.*—The Session had a standing grievance against the Town Council of Edinburgh on account of their continued delays in paying the wine tax.)

13 *of June* 1616.—Auditors to heare Jon. Ochiltree compts upon Wednsday nixt with David Jamesons compts of the repairinge.

4 *Julij* 1616.—The Sessioune ordaines George Smelloum and James Hoome Mr Jeremy Lindsay James Liddell John Ballandene William Logane Francis Waldie David Hamiltoun to gange with Mr David Lindsay to the Arch-Bishop of Sanct. Androuse and intreat for ane helper to Mr David Lindsay to be Second Minister and betwixt yis day and yis day fifteen days to report ane answer of the same.

(*Note.*—King James had a leaning towards Episcopacy, and certain favoured ministers had been made Bishops by him, *e.g.* the first David Lindsay became Bishop of Ross. This Minute shows that Leith was within the diocese of St Andrews. These Bishops had seats in Parliament, but were denounced by their stricter brethren, and the system had a short and precarious existence.)

8 *August* 1616.—The Session hes ordained that euerie sabot day efter ye prayers befoir ye blissinge yair sall be tuo bairnies out of ye gramer scool that sall repeit Mr James Nicholson catechys openlie In ye kirk for ye instrucoun of ye Comonnes, the qlk Mr Thomas Hoge maister of ye gramer scool hes promeist to obey.

The Collectioners of ye contrabutions has promessed to by ane hundred dailles for ye sylinge (*i.e.*, ceiling) of the Kirk.

(*Note.*—The Minutes here are awanting for a period of 13 years. It is known from other sources that John Cranstoun, A.M., succeeded Thomas Hog as second minister in 1620, and also succeeded the second David Lindsay as first minister in 1627. James Fairlie, A.M., then became second minister. The next entry begins a new Minute Book.)

10 *April* 1629.—(*In the margin* Mr Spence Scholmr. dimitts.)—The qlk day the Session being conveined for discharging ye burdens and debts of ye sessioune it wes proponed yat Mr William Spence had ovir muche fie and conditio and yat they wald not gif mor nor ye half for they thocht it sufficient. Vpone ye qlk day he was sent for to heir ther mynd quho offered his service as of befor and gif not he wald tak with vthers quho werre in termes wt him the qlk they wer content with yat he sowld proveyd for himself and content him for ye terme bygane and they to provyd ye scooll.

Ordained ye sessioune to meit on sonday nixt efternoone for provyding of yo school of maister and nominat Johne Shaw Barnard Sandersone to be recommendit to ye rest of sessioune at ye nixt meiting.

12 *April* 1629.—(*In the margin* Mr John Shaw, Schoolmr. pro tempore.)—The sessioune Ordained that for ye present necessitie ye schoole sould be provydit with a toune bairne and nominat Mr Johne Schawe for half a zeir or shoretir as ye sessioune pleiss and gif thir be any moir fiting ye place borne in ye toun eftir dewe tryell and examinatione then to be admittit.

13 *April* 1629.—The Sessioun ordained Mr Johne Shawe to attend ye scool during ye sessiounes plessur qll sufficient tryell be had of him and David Adinstone Barnard Sandersone by such as ar chossine be sessioune to tak tryell of thir qualificatione and lyfe and ye said Mr Jon actis himself to remove and gif ovir ye said school betwixt and mertemes nixt or within fyftene dayes efter he sall be chargit hirfra be ye sessioune in Witnes quharof ye said act is subscryved be me Clarke for ye present and said Mr Johne. (Signed) Johne Sibbald witnes. (Signed) Mr Johne Schaw.

30*th April* 1629.—Ordained Mr William Spence ta come to the Kirkdore and ye stool as of befor and to be receaved agane to ye bosome of ye kirk and societie of ye sanctes againe.

Ordained George thomsone to comand Robert Ruthvine to cloiz vp his windowes he hes put furth befor Dauid zuills howse.

(*Note.*—This and like Minutes show that the Session had an authority similar to our Dean of Guild Court.)

26 *May* 1629.—Ordained none to be suffered to bege throwe the toun without a marke givine be ye sessioun and yat everie monenday eftir ye morning prayers they be called be name be ye kirk officer to be ther and to haue yer markes to shawe.

4 *June* 1629.—Ordained to go to ye secrete counsell of Edr.

12 *July* 1629.—The qlk day the sessioune being conveined Ordained thrie of ye nichtbours to Edr. and confer with ye Bishope of Sanctandrs about ye Bailzies sitting in Sessioune quhither or no they may, they ar to say James Hoome Rot. Grindlay Mr Johne Elphingstoune.

(*Note.*—It was a question often disputed whether or not the Bailies had a right to sit with the Session.)

23 *July* 1629.—Ordained ye haill sessioune to be warned to be present ye nixt day for plantatione of ye schoolle.

30 *July* 1629.—Ordained ye heall nichtbours to meit on sonday come aucht dayes for plantatio of ye schooll and ye zoung men to be advertissed to be heir.

6 *August* 1629.—Compeared Geils Allesone and said yat Margaret souter came into hir howse on tuisday last and becaus hir howsband wald not mend hir shoe said yt he sowld nevir mend a shoe againe and in ane howre efter he fell seik since & yt shee socht his heall (*i.e.*, health) frome her.

Continewis Margaret souter and hir adversar till ye nix day and tryell to be maid yairof.

13 *August* 1629.—Compeired Margaret Ga and confessit yat she hard Margaret souter saye qn she cam downe ye stair of Rot. Patersone yat shee howped he sowld not mend a shoe shortlie again and yat she hard his wyf seik his heall thryse for Gods saik.

Compeared Janet Currie and said shee hard Margaret Sowter say ther ye seik man yt wes witched and ye devill had sent him ye seikness.

Compeared Janet Cuthbertsone and said she hard Geils Allesone seik hir howsbands helth for Gods caus.

Compeared Isobell Hwitonne and declared shee hard Margaret Sowter say shee wald not tak out licht out of ye howse and powt out ye candell in and quhen his sone refuissed to mend hir shoe said yt God let him his father nevir mend a shoe agane. Margaret Sowter denayed she brocht in a candell at all and yt she said yt gif he wald not ye nicht mend it he sould not mend it ye morne.

Continewis all pairties till ye nixt day and Inhibit Margaret sowter to scald or flyt and ye vther witnes to be warned.

20 *August* 1629.—Compeared Katherine Currie and said shee sawe Margaret sowter come doune ye stair and said shee culd not discerne qt she said quhither yt he sowld not mend a shooe or God let him nevir mend it agane and avowed she brocht in a candell and lighted it and put it out agane.

Continewis Margaret Sowter and hir witness till this day fyfeteine dayes and to be warned againe.

3 *September* 1629.—Ordained Georg thomsone and James Hoom Mr Johne Elphinstone francis Wilkie to confer wt Mr James fairlie about his way going quhither he be myndit or not to remove.

10 *September* 1629.—Ordained Margaret Sowter and Geils Alesone to be warned ye nixt day.

17 *September* 1629.—Ordained Geilis Alisone to come befor ye Pulpit on ye lords day nixt confess hir fawlt and crave Gods mercie publicklie in ye face of ye congregatione for seiking healthe for hir howsband frome Margaret Sowter and continewis Margaret sowter till farder tryell be maid be Johne Jenkin and James Johnstoune.

(*Note.*—This petty quarrel was of importance because witchcraft was supposed to enter into it.)

20 *September* 1629.—The qlk day the session and nichtbours being conveined Mr James fairlie shewe his demissions wes givine be ye bishop and desyred ye nichtbours and sessioune to provyd yem selfes of a sufficient ministerie and ordained for yat caus them to meit againe morne yat out of yr number auchteine honest men micht be chosen to confer and take ye burdeine upon yem for yat effect.

(*Note.*—Mr James Fairlie left the second charge of the church to become Professor of Divinity in Edinburgh University.)

21 *September* 1629.—Mr James Fairlie hes promissed how shoone ye nichtbours and sessioune hes provydit yem a minister yat he suld yen demit his place Immediatelie yrefter.

The sessioune hes chosine these fowk four for ye saillors (then follow the names, including those from the Maltmen, Traffickers, Crafts, and Mealmakers) and gif any of these be absent to put in any ane they pleas in place of ther callings and weddinsday nixt to be ye first meiting.

1*st October* 1629.—Ordained James Liddell James Home and James Johnstoune David Robertson to goe to ye presbetrie on Wedinsday nixt and Requyst ye ministerie for a helpe in Mr Johne Cranstoune place till it be provydit.

(*Note.*—The first charge was now vacant by the death of John Cranstoun.)

The qlk day the sessioune Ordained the disput for ye Schooll to be on monenday nixt and ye men for ye tryell of ther qualeficatione to be those following Mr Thomas sinserffe Mr Johne Adamsone Mr Thomas Hog Mr Georg Nisbit or failing him Mr Robert fairlie.

The Subject of ther lessone the thrid ode of ye second Book of Horros (*i.e.* Horace). The sessioune ordained ye schooll to have ye preveledg till twisday.

6 *October* 1629.—The qlk day ye nichtbours and sessioune being convened for chussing the maister of ye gramer schooll concluded the heall nichtbours sould haue yer vote in chussing ye man quhome ye ministers and maisters awedeters thocht maist qualified.

The sessioune and heall nichtbours all in one voce consents to ye admissioune of Mr Barnard Sandersone to be schoolmaister in place of Mr William Spence.

Ordained David Robertsone James Hoome Robert grinlay to Intreat and deall wt Mr Barnardsone to sie gif he will be content wt ye coditione Mr Wm. spence cam in with and report again on thurisday.

8 *October* 1629.—The qlk day the nichtbours and sessioune being conveined for chussing a leit for the second minister they haue leitted Mr Robert Dowglas of Kirkaldie Mr John Bell Mr John Duncan minister at Saline not excluding Mr Andrew Keire being hard alreadie.

The qlk day ye sessioune admittis Mr Barnard Sandersone and enters him to ye gramer scholle and delyvered to him ye keyes thereof with those conditiones following, that is to say, ye said Mr Barnard sall be bund to teach ye said schole for ye spaice of fyve zeirs to come Induring ye qlk spaice he sall nevir countinance any exercise of theologie by attending ane presbetrie or day of exercise nor present himself to any pulpit (2) that he sall seildome resort to Edr or vther places (3) That he sall not leave ye schooll ane scholl day with-

out licence asked and givine (4) that he sall admit no doctor (*i.e.* teacher) ather for ye latine or Inglish bairnes but be ye speciall advyse and approbatione of ye sessioune therwnto: Item in caice it sall happine during ye said spaice or any tyme therefter yat ye said Mr Barnard (as God forbid) to prove negligent or cairless of ye said scholl in yt caise be ye sicht of ye sessioune he sall be removed quhensoevir the sessioune plaiss, he being warned ye spaice of ane quarter of ane zeir befor, and being dischargit be ye sessioune sall not attempte to appeall frome yer senser to any Judge Civill or eccleseastike within yis kingdome vnder ye paine of tuo hundreth pounds, for ye qlk caus ye sessioune & comissione foresaid binds yemselfes zeirlie Induring ye said spaice to pay to ye said Mr Barnard at Witsonday & mertemes be equall portiones ye soume of ane hundreth pounds Item ye said Mr Barnard is ordained to haue quarterlie of everie bairne lairnes gramer 20s. and 5s. to ye doctor; for yem learnes ye rudemets 12s. and 4s. to ye doctor and they yat learnes to reid & write 10s. and . . . to ye doctor; for yim yat learis to spell 6s. 8d. and 4d. to ye doctor and for every bairne comes into ye toune 30s. & 6s. 8d. to ye doctor, ye said conditiones being read to ye said Mr Barnard and considerat be him he heartfullie submited him self to them qrvpon ye sessioune promissit yat nane vther schooll sould haue libertie to teach any maill children bot ye gramer and musick schoolles onlie to ye qlk ye sessioune & Nichtbours (?agree) ye magistrats also promissit concurance yerto.

(*Note.*—This Minute is interesting. From it we can infer that the Session appointed the teacher of the Grammar School and paid his salary themselves, that the heritors at this time had no part in the business, that the teacher had a limited tenure, and appointed his own assistant with their approval, also that the Session fixed the fees payable by the Scholars to the teacher and preserved the monopoly of teaching for his benefit. The table of fees gives some idea of what was then taught. The 20s. fee probably refers to Latin and the others to English. The Session also maintained a music school in order that the children might learn the psalm tunes and help in public worship. The early Education Acts show that the foremost place was given to religious education. In place of Sabbath Schools it was customary to have services in Church to go over the Catechism. *Vide* minute of 8th August 1616 *supra*.)

15 *October* 1629.—Ordained Mr Johne Shawe to have for his contentatioune in keiping ye scholl fiftie pounds.

22*nd October* 1629.—Ordained heirefter ouklie, ye collectiones to com in on ye saturday quhen ye bell rings & thesaurer and deacones to be presen with ye reider.

29*th October* 1629.—The Sessioune inhibits all the women yat teaches childrine not to teach any abone sixe zeirs nor no longer nor they begine to read.

17 *Januarii* 1630.—At ye Kirk of Leith ye 17 of Januarii 1630 zeirs the qlk day the Bishop of Sanctandreis being accompanied wt thrie of ye ministers of Edr ye nichbours being all present ye Archbishop hes ordained sexe of ye speciall honest men chossine be yemselfs to come on twisday nixt to Alexr. hameltounes howse and they sexe wt consent of ye Bishope to nominat ye sessioners and ye sex men to be chossine presentlie be all ye nichtbours.

(*Note.*—The word "neighbours" appears to mean the officials of the incorporations.)

19*th Januarii* 1630.—My Lord Sanctandreis & thrie of ye ministers of Edr being all present conveined for ye caus abone writtene for chussing ye sessioun have concludit yt ye number of sessioune salbe 21. They have nominat for elders in ye sands quarter . . . for ye hill . . . for the Kirkgait . . . for ye lees . . . for Restalrig . . .

Ordained intimatione to be maid on Thurisday nixt to ye people of ye number chossine to be sessioners yat gif that ony can object any caus quhy these may not be admittit to declare betwixt and ye Lords dat nixt the qlk day they are to be suorne & admitted.

(*Note.*—The members of Session were chosen at the beginning of each year, and also a corresponding number of deacons, the latter having special duties in connection with the poor. In perusing the minutes of this period it should be borne in mind that Episcopacy existed in the Church from 1610 to 1638.)

7 *Februar* 1630.—The qlk day ye haill neighbours and Sessionne being met for craving the opinion of Mr Mungo Murray and gif they thocht meit to present him to my Lord Sanctandrois for tryall. They all thocht him fitting to be presented. Ordained to goe to the Presbyterie on Weddensday nixt and crave

their Opinion againe befor they send word to my Lord Sanct Androis James Hoome David Robertson Wm. Phine.

14 *Februar* 1630.—The qlk day they yt wes directed to ye presbetrie reported yat ye bretherne of ye prebetrie thocht him very fiting.

21 *februar* 1630.—Ordained ye motherles bairn to have fyve pounds quarterlie.

14 *Marche* 1630.—Ordained to goe to my Lord Sanctandreis and crave hes Lordships adyse about a second minister . . .

17 *March* 1630.—Ordained my lord Lyone & James Liddell James hoome & David Robertsone to goe to my Lord Sanctandreis & shawe his Lordship yat his lordships comedatione & guid report of Mr Patrick pontor ye people & sessioune is willing to except of him to be minister.

11 *Apryll* 1630. — Ordained katheryne Lawsone to be jugit for abussing hir mother.

(*Note.*—"Jugit" means put in the jougs, which was a common form of punishment.)

The sixt of May 1630.—Mr Johne Maxwell accompanied wt Mr Andrew Ramsay Mr Wm. Struthers Mr David Mitchell the said Mr Johne haveing preached & haveing commissioune frome ye Bishope of Sanctandreis ye presentatione & collatione being read formallie proceided in receaving Mr William Wishert to be minister of Leith & parsone of restelrig & ye Mr William alsoe wes hairtile accepted be ye heall honest men of ye parishe & took instrumets thereof in ye hands of Rot grinlay notar.

(*Note.*—The Rev. William Wishart, A.M., was first minister from this date until June 1639. We are told he was a malicious railer against the Covenanters, and that at the latter date he was deposed for erroneous doctrine and banished. This would be due to the fact that the period of Episcopacy in the Church ended in 1638. It should be noted that just as there were two ministers of the name of David Lindsay, so also there were two of the name of William Wishart, and of these the latter came to the meeting-house in 1687. He was an outstanding character, as will appear from later minutes.)

9 *May* 1630.—The qlk day ye minister Mr Wm. Wishart being ye first day of his moderatione of ye sessioune showe ye bishope of Sanctandreis warrand to ye session giffing him warrand to hold sessioun for taking ordour of ye affairs of ye Kirk.

13 *May* 1630.—Ordained heirefter yat everie ane yet hes seik folkis in yer howse sowld shawe ye Reader & he to visit yem & according to yer esteat to gif informatione to ye minister & to be intemat to ye people from pulpit.

4 *July* 1630.—The qlk day ye Bishope of Sanctandreis sitand in Sessioune be his awne authoritie did incorporat Thomas Charters and Wm. Wilkie Baillies as sessioners and foull members of ye sessioune of Leith & to yat effect took yer othe *de fideli administratione.*

8 *July* 1630.—Ordained evir heirefter ane elder & deacon to collect at ye Kirk dore & nane uyr & ye deacone to stand at ye sessioune dore on ye sessioune day & call ye fawlters.

The qlk day ye sessioune have seine and considerd ye act of comissioune for ye teinds to have dismemberet ye lands of pilrike frome ye Sanc culberts Kirke, and to have annexed yem to ye sowt Kirk of Leith ye heall sessioune hes givine yer consent yrto.

22 *July* 1630.—Ordained ane court of Sanct antones to be holdin ye saxt of Agust & David Jemesone & James Jonstowne to be warned to yt day.

5 *Agust* 1630 *zeirs.*—Ordained Jn hunter distracted of his wytte to be put in a darke howse and shekels to be put on hime & entertained wt vivers.

(*Note.*—The Kirk-Session must have regarded this insane man as dangerous, and it was common until quite lately to put shackles on such persons. "Vivers" means provisions.)

12 *August* 1630.— Ordained ye heall Websters to be warnit all to ye naixt day.

Ordained heirafter yat efter ye morning prayers ye Kirke doors sall evir be steiket (*i.e.*, shut) till ye evening prayers.

Ordained ye Baxters to put on ye dore on ye laighe seat.

19 *August* 1630.—The quhilk day the Sessioune hes ordained to repair ye pew befor ye Laird of Pilrig's seat to ye use of the Minister and his wyf.

26 *August* 1630.—Ordained ye smithis for thir malicious wrong done to God first & to his servant ye minister & to Mr James Gray & his

wyf to go to ward (*i.e.*, prison) enduring ye ministers will & pay twentie marks to ye poore & gif Mr James Gray & his wyf contentmet.

16 *September* 1630.—Compeared ye fruite sellers & wes admonished not sell any fruit publicklie agane on ye Sabbath under ye paine of making yer publicke repentance.

23 *September* 1630.—The Sessioun compones David Jemesones infeftment of Alexr. hamiltounes howse for saxe score pounds.

(*Note.*—This payment was a casualty due to the Session from one of the properties of which they were superiors.)

11 *November* 1630.—Ordained the act concerning ye women that teaches bairnes to be socht out agane ye nixt day.

The qlk day ye Craft of ye Tailzears giving in thair bill for assistance of ye Sessioune and Ballzies in putting thair right to execution aganes uncouth Tailzeurs ye Sessione thocht reasonable and ye Baillzies promised their concurrence in all things beseiming them.

(*Note.*—The second of these Minutes shows that unless he got permission from the incorporations no man could start a business in the town. The various incorporations carried this policy of preserving the trade to their own members to an extent it is not easy to understand nowadays.)

14 *November* 1630.—The qlk day ye Sessioune & nichtbours being conveined for chussing a second minister ye minister nominat ye minister of Clunie ye qlk ye heall nichtbours wes content wt & concluded ye minister sowld write for him wt expeditione.

9 *December* 16030 *zeirs.*—Remits ye contentione betwixt Gilbert Smiths wyf & Jon Glass wyf for yer chairs ye nixt day.

6 *Januarii* 1631.—Ordained ye heall sessioune to be warned all to be heir ye nixt day under ye paine of poynding.

10 *Januarii* 16031.—The qlk day ye sessioune being conveined for sundrie affairs ye minister erging ye old sessioune to nominat newe & gif upe thir names on thurisday nixt, ther ar chossine to gif up for ye sands Wm. purves Johne Gray; for ye hill Gilbert Wedell Isaak Johnestoune; for ye Dubra David Robertsone & henrie chrystie; to gif up for ye lies James hoome, Neill Campbell.

(*Note.*—Sands, *i.e.*, Bernard Street; hill, *i.e.*, Coalhill; Dubra, *i.e.*, St. Andrew Street; Lees, *i.e.*, St. Anthonys and Yardheads.)

27 *Januar* 1631.—Upon ye 23 day preceding ye neighbours and Sessione being conveined for leiting second minister they leited sevine and concludit that upon sonday nixt they would proceed in election and being conveined for election and having chosin thrie of the sevine they all in one voce have agried upon Mr Wm. Mortoune and wer content gif his presentit and yrefter to be excepted publicklie.

1 *Marcii* 16031 *zeirs.*—The qlk day Mr Andrew Ramsay Moderator of ye Presbyterie of Edr and accompanyied with Mr Thomas Sydserffe Mr John Maxwell and sundrie others of ye Ministerie, the said day Mr William Mortoune, efter sermon, was received Minister of Leith, and excepted be ye parsone of Restalrig willinglie and be ye haill Sessioune and neighbours to be his colige and second to serve in ye Ministerie.

(*Note.*—Mr Morton, A.M., was second minister until 1639. Like the first minister of the time he favored Episcopacy and spoke against the Covenanters. The feeling of the nation was, however, strongly Presbyterian as both ministers learned, and the result was that Mr Morton was violently driven from the town, fled into England, and at York he was taken and put into prison.)

24 *Marche* 16031.—Ordained ye Bels to be changit on monday nixt & intematione to be mad on Sonday nixt.

31 *Marche* 16031.—Refered ye players at ye kyttis (*i.e.*, quoits) on ye Sonday to ye magistratis.

7 *Apryll* 16031.—Ordained intematione to be maid out of pulpit of ye communione & supper of ye Lord be administered ye 17 of Apryll nixt.

14 *Apryll* 16031.—Ordained to attend ye tables for ye bread bairing . . . for ye wyne bearing . . . at ye head of ye tables . . . for ye tickitis . . .

(*Note.*—The names are given, but are not here reproduced.)

21 *Aprylł* 16031.—Ordained Johne Wilsone to be warded till yis day aucht dayes & to be fed on bread and water & to come againe ye nixt day.

28 *Aprylł* 16031.—Ordained Johne Wilsone to remaine still in ward till he give in his supplication.

12 *May* 16031.—The qlk day ye sessioune ordained yat gif ane of ye sessiouners be absent without live (*i.e.*, leave) asked they sall pay ane unlaw (*i.e.*, fine).

Ordained Thomas Wricht & his wyf to remaine in ward till they find cautione to live in peace heirefter.

19 *May* 16031. — Compeared Charles Geddes & wes admonished to keipe (*i.e.*, attend) ye kirke better heirefter & to comunicat qn occatione serves.

Ordained Catharine Simsone to pay fowr pounds for hir penaltie and ather send it doune or come wt it hirself.

Requysts ye parsone to complaine to ye presbetrie about ye wrong done be ye men of ye Cannon milnes in bringing in thir servant to be a burdene to ye sessioune.

(*Note.*—This refers to some pauper who had been sent down from Edinburgh.)

2 *Junii* 16031.—Referred ye compositione of Alex gowrlay Entrie to Georg thomsone & appoynted to gif him infeftment James hoome becaus ye Bailzie is seik.

(*Note.*—This is another casualty for entry to a property held from the Session.)

15 *Junii* 1631.—The qlk day David Jamesone is receaved Bailzie of Sanct antones & he excepted.

21 *July* 1631.—Ordained to heir David Robertsone his comptis (*i.e.*, accounts) Sir Jeremie Lindsay with ye minister.

28 *July* 1631.—The sessioune compones Alexr. Downies infeftment for thrie score pounds.

4 *Agust* 1631.—Ordained the morrowe ye sessiouners all to be heir & settill ye scholl & qtever ye number be to sitt and doe as gif they were all heir at two howrs.

12 *Agust* 1631.—Continews Issobell Spence till shee be weill of hir diseaes.

8 *September* 1631.—Ordained ye sessioune to meit on twisday nixt for taking ordour wt ye poore in ye hospitall.

(*Note.*—King James Hospital was built in the Kirkgate in 1614 on the south side of the Church, and stood there until 1822, when it was demolished and the site added to the church-yard. The building itself measured 56 feet by 30 feet according to Kincaid. The site may still be identified by the line of tombs extending into the church-yard, the houses in Lawrie Street probably being the line of the south boundary. The hospital existed for the accommodation of the poor of the three incorporations, crafts, traffickers, and maltmen, the last of these claiming the greatest right in it. Hence we have the three masters. The mariners had a hospital of their own in the Trinity House. "Hospital" in early times meant poorhouse or almshouse.)

15 *September* 1631.—Ordained Gavine Stewarts to pay fowr pownds for ye breake of promis of mariag,

Ordained Johne Grinlay to enter to his repentance on ye lords day bearfooted & twentie fyve preaching dayes yerefter.

22 *September* 1631.—Ordained ye Bels to be changit on mononday nixt day.

20 *October* 1631.—Ordained George Donaldsone to be writtine for servant to my Lord Bothwell.

8 *December* 1631.—The qlk day James hoome hes reported yt he hes lifted ye fyve hundret markes from Sir James Lundy.

29 *December* 1631.—The qlk day these persones following ar to be chossine to bear office as Elders & deacones for ye sands quarter . . . ; hill quarter . . . ; for ye Kirkgait . . . ; for ye Lies . . . ; Restelrig . . . Ordained these to be sworne & receaved on ye Lords day nixt.

(*Note.*—The blanks are for the names, which are not reproduced.)

5*th Januari* 1632.—Ordained to heir David Jemesones debts on Monenday nixt day chossine for ye saillers . . . for ye maltmen . . . trafickers . . . crafts . . . (names).

(*Note.*—The inhabitants of Leith were divided into four classes, viz :—mariners (*i.e.*, masters of ships and sailors) ; maltmen (*i.e.*, maltmakers and brewers) ; traffickers (*i.e.*, dealers and merchants) ; trades (*i.e.*, coopers, bakers, smiths, tailors, wrights, weavers, &c.).

9 *Februar* 1632.—Ordained to sicht ye writtis of ye Kirk for ye Saillers Captane Ramsay, David Logane, Maltmen, David Jemesone, Patricke Smetoune Alexr. Gilkine; Crafts Frances James Read, trafekers Sr. Jeremie Lindsay, Rot. Ramsay.

16 *Februar* 1632.—Issobel Brysone is ordained to goe to ye Bailzie & gat ane warrand to ye Jailour of ye tolbuith to gat ye confessioune of her pairtie.

1 *Marche* 1632.—The quhilk day Johne Steinsone hes produced twentie tuo writtis of ye securitie of his lands to be sichted.

Ordained Johne Sibbald, Reader, to have twentie pounds zeirlie induring his service for ye helpe of his howse mail (*i.e.*, rent) & moreover ordaines him at witsonday to receave fowrtie pounds for byganes (signed) William Wishartt.

(*Note.*—The reader was no doubt teacher of the music school. It was usual to provide the teacher with rent for a house.)

22 *Marche* 1632.—Ordained the sacrament of ye lords supper to be celebrat on ye first of Apryll & ye secunde day upo ye first sunday of Maii & to be intemat on ye lords day nixt.

And ye prayer bell to be changit at morn & evine according to ye old forme & act & to be intemat alsoe.

29 *Marche* 1632.—Ordained to attend ye table heads . . . to carrie ye bread . . . to carrie wyne . . . for ye stowps . . . to stand at ye stylls and gather ye tickets . . .

(*Note.*—Names given in the original.)

29 *March* 1632.—The qlk day with consent of ye Sessionne ther was delyvered to ye four callings ye keis of ye kist to ye Saillers Alexr. Bain a key to ye Maltmen Patrike Smetoune for ye trafickers key William Downie for ye Craft key Francis Wilkie Also it was ordained that none sould go to oppen ye kist without a Warrand of ye Sessioune and Ministrie and the Kist to be delyverit to David Logane thair Thesaurer.

5 *April* 1632.—Ordained heirefter to gif Tuentie s zeirlie to ane Wright that has ye charg of ye setting up of the communion buirds (*i.e.*, tables) and gif they make any new wark to satisfie yem of it.

2 *Agust* 1632.—Ordained to cause ye drum to goe throwe ye toune to discharge any drinking in any howse efter ten hours under ye paine of twentie s.

23 *Agust* 1632.—Ordained heirefter no seat be lockit after ye Second Bell bot they yt dwell in Restalrig and gif they come not at third bell to be patent (*i.e.*, open) to any yt comes.

Ordained yat in respect the relickes (*i.e.*, widow) of Umql (*i.e.*, deceased) George Thomson and ye Relickes of Wm Sim hes beene in use to sit in yat seat at ye back of Sir Jeremie Lindsay seat yt they keep yr possession and sit qr they wer wont induring ye Sessionnes guid will and also ordained Janet Cairnes to pay to Janet Sutherland ye third pairt of ye desbursement.

23 *September* 1632.—The qlk day ye Sessionne being conveinit for augmentatione of Mr Barnards Stipend thei wer content to give him fiftie merkes out of ye Sessionnes monies and fyftie out of their awin purse and ye third ye gentlemen of ye paroche at ye parsones requist suld be gevin him for yis zeir he provyding him qualified doctors and not farder burdening ye toune wt them.

4 *October* 1632.—Referred to ye magistrates for scolding Janet Couper . . . . & sellers of fleshe in tyme of humilitione.

Ordained Issobell Allane to make her publick repentance befor ye pulpit gif hir howsband deall not earnestlie for hir & pay a pecunniall soume.

15 *November* 1632.—Compeared Culbert and his wyf & were inhibit to reset Marie Meinges under ye paine of condign pinishment.

22 *November* 1632.—Ordained to repair ye little chamber above ye porche and to be givin to ye Doctore of ye Gramer Schoole.

(*Note.*—The reference here is to the Kintore or Cantore a small building which stood in the Kirkgate in front of the Church. In the centre was an archway leading to the Church and it was above this that the doctor taught his school. The Kintore is frequently referred to as a place where the searchers took their captives and it served various other purposes as appears from the minutes down to 1809.)

31 *Januar* 1633.—Ordained that because of ye King's coming that there sall be ane new Pulpite.

(*Note.*—This refers to King Charles I who in this year visited Scotland and was crowned at Holyrood.)

31 *Januar* 1633.—The qlk day the sessioune gif ye drum to Jon Finlesone & he to frie ye sessioune of ye burdene of his mother & come & find caution to serve dewtifullie.

7 *March* 1633.—The sessioune ratifies their old Act and Withal ordaines James Crafurd to sit amongst his calling yat roum may be gevin to Patrike Quhytlaw Janet Rutherford his Spous David Jamesone Janet Cairnes, excluding all their Servants and all of yis induring the Sessiounnes guidwill.

21 *Marche* 1633.—Ordained the kies of kist to be producit on monenday nixt & ane Charter to be soucht out and ye kies to be givine to urs.

18 *Appryll* 1633.—Ordained to attend ye tables . . . . to beare ye coupes . . . . for ye braid . . . . for ye poore . . . . & them yt serves ye tables; to beare ye stoupes . . . . to gather ye tickets for ye east styll . . . .

25 *Aprylł* 1633.—Ordained Culbert Read & his wyf Ewpham Rea to be banished ye toune for reseting unlawfull persones according to ye former act betwixt & witsonday nixt.

(*Note.*—*Vide* Minute of 15 November 1632.

26 *Maii* 1633.—The qlk day ye sessioune ordained Rot. Grinlay to abyd patrike Glassfuird lyftyme & yen to be admittit clark of Sanct antones.

5 *Agust* 1633.—The qlk day ye sessioune all in one voce ordained to lift ye monies out of ye guidman of northberikes lands.

15 *Agust* 1633.—Ordained to lend fyve hundreth markis to George Dumbar upon his band James Skugall & Johne Inglishe merchands of Edr being cawtioners.

17 *October* 1633.—The qlk day the bishope of Gallaway compeared personlie & promissed to present Margaret Callender heir before ye sessioune & cause hir satisfie ye kirk in all poyntis.

22 *December* 1633.—The qlk day the Sessione most willinglie granted ane burial to Barbara Logan Relick of Umquhile Barnard Lindsay after hir death in ye Kirk besyd hir husband and she has delyvered and gevin to ye poor in contentation yrof ane hundredth markes.

(*Note.*—Bernard Street is named from this Bernard Lindsay whose marriage is given in the minute of 17 July 1589. The King's work became his property, hence Bernard's Neuk and Bernard Street. This minute shows that he and his wife are buried in the church. The sentiment which led people to seek interment in the churchyard led others to covet the higher privilege of burial within the church itself, and many were buried there and in the vestry. In 1643 the General Assembly regarding these burials as objectionable on sanitary grounds passed an Act against them but custom and sentiment prevailed against the Act for many generations.)

23 *Januar* 1634.—The qlk day the Sessione hes promiset to ye craft of taillzears to restore to yem yr seat againe how soone that my Lord Wemes removes from ye toune becaus they have gevin libertie for the Sessiones requist.

(*Note.*—This was the first Lord Wemyss, ancestor of the present Earl. He was Commissioner to the General Assembly of 1641. The minutes show that many of the nobility of Scotland had residences in Leith, but the reason for this cannot be stated with certainty. Thus Duke Street takes its name from the Duke of Buccleuch who had a house there.

4 *Aprylł* 1634.—The qlk day ye Sessioune ordained to visit ye land pertaining to Sanct antons and to consider the worth of it, ther names Sir Jeremie Lindsay David Jenkine Bailzie Patrike Smetoune Rot. Grindlay Wm. Rudoch all to meir on Tuesday nixt and report on Thursday nixt.

8 *of May* 1634.—The qlk day the Sessioune ordained to gif the seat of Umqll George Sinclaire to ye Ladie Stonnyhill and ye key to be delyvered to hir and induring the Sessiones will.

(*Note.*—Stoneyhill is a small estate on the banks of the Esk and at this time it belonged to a family called Dobbie.)

22 *May* 1634.—Ordained to meit on Tuesday nixt certaine of ye Sessione and cognoss upon ye Land and qt can be most had for it, to report on Thursday nixt.

Ordained the heall pensioners to be warned against thursday efter noone and sichted.

12 *Junij* 1634.—Ordained ye Sessioune to remit on tuisday nixt day and visit ye land and bide for to quha will bid most and report next Sessione.

10 *July* 1634.—The qlk day there was delyvered to Robert Grinlay saxteine writtis qlk Patrick Glassfurd had with ye Kirk Seall.

17 *Julij* 1634.—The qlk day the Baillzie David Jenkine hes bocht the land that wes Jon. Steinsones from ye Sessioune because it appertaines to ye sessione for ye soume of fyve hundred and fourscore markes.

17 *Julii* 1634.—Collectit out of ye sands quarter for ye relief of ye poore of Orknay ane hundreth threttie thrie pounds—for ye Kirkgait quarter thrie score seventoune pounds sixe shillings—Collectit fora ye Hill quarter ane hundreth markes 19s—Collectit frome ye lies quarter ane hundreth nyntene punds sevine and fourtie shillings—Suma is fowre hundret pounds.

(*Note.*—Instances occur of unusual collections like this one and they were probably made by order of the General Assembly or the Privy Council. In this case some special calamity must have befallen the people of Orkney, *e.g.* a shipwreck, as the collection would not be made for the ordinary poor there.)

23 *October* 1634.—Compeared Mungo Zeull & became cawtion for Adam Patersone that he sall marie Dorete Jacksone betwixt and witsonday.

(*Note.*—When parties gave in their names for marriage a certain sum of money was deposited or caution given and if the marriage did not follow in due time the money was forfeited for the use of the poor. The amount varied according to individuals, *e.g.*, £5 or £10, and sometimes when money could not be deposited some valuable, such as a ring, was taken in its place.)

20 *November* 1634.—The Sessioune ordained to be auditors ye comptis of ye new hospitall The maltmen Patrike Smetoune Alexr. broune for ye coupers henrie baptie Wm. Comrie and to be on the 2 of December.

Januari the 8 1635.—Robert Greenlay & Alexr. Riddoth to be auditoris of ffrancis Wilkie hes compt concerning the newe hospitall & ye day of their meiting to be the 13 of this instant immediately after sermon.

5 *Februar* 1635.—Ordained Alexr broun for ye maltmen and francis Wilkie for ye Craftisman and Williame Comrie for the Nichtbours voluntary to be maisters of ye new hospitall of Leith for this zeir to cum.

XIX *Marche* 1635.—The sessione appointes Sir Jeremie Lindsay . . . . to meet with meisters of ye new hospitall ye morne after ye prayers to confer upoun its affairs.

Ordained Mr David Adinstoun to read this nixt Saboth day in ye Kirk of Leith for tryell of his qualificaone & ordaines Mr Jon Shaw to read untill a reader sall be placet.

XXVI. *Marche.*—Collectors for ye puir at ye Kirk dore upoun Sonday nixt . . . . Item at ye styllis for ye Tickits at ye east styll . . . . Item at ye mid styll . . . . Item at ye portche . . . . Item for ye service of ye tables for ye bread . . . . Item for ye wyne . . . . Item at ye heid of ye table. . . .

Nono Aprilie 1635.—The sessioun requests Charles Watsone to reid & sing in this kirk yis nixt Sabboth day.

XXV. *Junii* 1635.—Delyverit be Thomas Dawlings srvand to ye use of ye puir of ye new hospitall fyve hundreth merks resseivit be Wm. Comrie for this effect.

15 *October* 1635.—Charles Watsones admissioune to be reider & clerk off our sessioune was ye 15 of October 1635.

Decr. 9 1635.—The copie off ye Letter sent to ye session concerning ye use of yt five hundreth mrks by Thomas Dauling ye qlk he gave to ye wse of ye maintenance of ye new hospitall & yt to be Liftid at the pleasr of Mr Wm. Wishart parson of Restelrig his successors and given out as after follows

Richt Reverand.

"Please your wisdomes thes soume of fyve hundreth mrks which I sent to yow in ye month of May last bypast in ye zeire of god 1635 zeires and yt to be imployet for ye use of ye poore men of ye hospitall in Leith and because at yt tyme I was not fullie resolved how I would have the samyn imployed; now these pnts ar to appoynt ye samyn soume to be layd furth upon annull (*i.e.*, interest) & ye annull

thairof to cum zeirlie to the hospitall callit ye maltmans hospitall and ye parson of Restelrig sall injoy ye samyn to be presentit as ye place sall vake (*i.e.*, become vacant) by Mr Wm. Wishart & his successors parsons off Restelrig and ye principall soume to be lifted & layd out as neid requyre wt consent of ye said parson and his successors & no otherwayes By these pnts wretten & subscryved wt my awne hand at Edr the nynth day of December 1635 zeires."

THOMAS DAULING.

Februarii the 25 day 1636.—Ordanes David Jameson as Bailzie of Sant Antons to hold court on fryday cum aught dayes.

Februarie 28 1636.—This day it is ordainit that ye reider of yis or church namit Chairles Watson sall have for augmentatione of his yirlie steipend, for his better maintainance, of everie Baptem 6/- and of everie mariage twelve mrk & yt not to be any hender to him of that yeirlie steipend yt others his predecessrs did receive quho did not have yis forsaid benifite of Baptem & mariage: Morever we quho ar ministers is most willing & does heir promise yt no children sal be Baptised nor people maried after proclamation wtout a testimoniall from the Reider bearing yt they ar lauchfullie proclaimit and no empediment found to stay yr mariage and yt ye childrens names is put in ye churches regester—This is doune in obedince to the Bishopes letr to ye sessione for yis effect.

(*Note.*—At this time and until the end of the 18th century the Session Clerk generally combined in himself the offices of Clerk, precentor, reader and teacher of the Music School. As reader he conducted the services in the church before the minister's service began.)

March the 24 day 1636.—This day by consent of ye whole Sessione Mr Patrik Maver Clerk to yis toune of Lyth is choysen and orderlie admited to be clerk to us for yis or superioritie of Sant antonies.

May 19 1636.—Ordaines ye skipers to have ye keay of ye gramer scoole qlk is ye Leath Ternetie house & that they sall produce to us against ye nixt day an Tickit subscryved wt yr hands binding yem to refound ye samyn to us at qt tyme the occatione does offer yt we must have an gramer scoll & yt upon such condishones as we have possesit ye samyn in tym bygan.

(*Note.*—"Ternetie House" is Trinity House. It was sometimes called Fraternity House. The Grammar School met there and the Session paid rent for it.)

Julie 12 1636.—Ordaines ye Maltmen to be warnit against ye nixt day.

Ordained ye Deacon & others of ye Websters to be warnit.

20 *Julie* 1636.—Forsameikell as this or Kirk & Sessione of Leyth hes bene in persute against the bretherine of ye Tealzour craft of Lyth for ye maintainance of yr onne poore of yr craft & because ye continuance of ye persut hes bein before ye Lords of Counsall (*i.e.*, Court of Session) verie troubelsome to both pairties. The bretherine of ye tealzour craft of Lyth for obedience geven to ye sessione of ye matter of ye forsaid persuts have all in one voyce & wt ane consent presented ymselves & also becum actit to intertain yr awne poore of yr craft so far as ye moneyes of yr Box may reach & are content & consentes to mak compt & rakning of ye saymn at ye sight of ye provost Bailzies & counsall of Edr. & to ye said sessioun & bailzies of Lyth, & have actit ymselves yt they sall not distribut nor put away any of yr moneyes or benefite belonging to ye alterage of Sanct Antans to any oyr use but to ye support of yr onne poore of yr craft & reparatione of yr seat in ye kirk; excepand onlie out of first & readiest money of yr Box ye dewties dew be ye tailzours of Lyth to ye Tailzours of Edr. & qlk they ar oblegid to pay to ye saids tailzours of Edr. for yr upsetes & other wayes and yt zeirlie - - - for ye qlk causs we of ye Kirk session actit - - - that qn ye forsaids benefites of yr craft & calling shall be found not sufficient for ye maintainance of ye poore of yr onne craft we of ye sessione sall supplie yr want for ye usses forsaid & yt yis or Diet may be ye better performit in all tyme cuming the counsell table of Edr. & yr subordinates ye bailzies of Lyth hes promised to give yr best concurrance & assistance to those of ye Tailzour craft of Lyth in ye matter

of yr calling and privalage yt no occason heirafter may be given for ye annulling of yis or pesabell agrement.

(*Note.*—This minute shows that the incorporations were expected to provide for their own poor and it points to the early difficulties of the Session in dealing with this old problem. It also points out one of the exactions claimed by Edinburgh traders at the expense of Leith traders.)

November 10 1636.—The quhilk day Archibald Tod Bailzie of Edr. compeiring before or sessione of Lyth personallie in name of ye counsall of Edr. desireing yt in respect ye place & office of or Drummer being vaiking (*i.e.* vacant) that ye nominaon of an new drummer sould be remited unto ym as a thing meirlie civill & appertaining unto ym as dew & lauchfull superiorers to ye toune of Lyth in all things yt are civill The Sessione of or Kirk of Lyth wt full & universaill consent have geven way & consent yt in all time cuming the nominaon of or drummer in Lyth salbe in ye power & at ye optione of ye counsall of Edr. provyding alway yt ye drummer yt salbe choysen salbe ane of ye toune of Lyth & not of Edr. secondlie yt ye toune of Edr. sall frie the sessione of Lyth from ye chairges of ye said drummer & thirdlie yt qtsoever tyme ye said drumer salbe found defective in his chairge of ye drume the church & toune of Lyth complaining upon him he salbe ather suspended or deprived from his said calling.

(*Note.*—This minute shows the Town Council of Edinburgh interfering with one of the responsibilities of the Session, and asserting superiority over Leith. The office of drummer was of importance at a time when people had neither newspapers nor clocks. He carried the proclamations and official news. He also set out in the morning through the silent streets to warn people for their labours. The day began early, breakfast was at five o'clock, and by six o'clock everyone was at work and the scholars at their places in the school. In the evening the drummer beat the curfew, and it appears from the Minute of 2 August 1632 *supra* that he went round again to see that the taverns closed at ten o'clock, as the police do now. It should be mentioned that the Bailies who are from time to time referred to in the Minutes were nominees, directly or indirectly, of the Edinburgh Town Council and through them Edinburgh conducted the civil affairs of Leith until the beginning of the 19th century.)

November 10 1636.—The said day it is appoynted yt Mr Wm. Mortoune Ministere and Wm. Redoch Wm. Bankes Elderis in yis or Sessione sall goe up commissioners for ye Sessione to ye counsaill of Edr. and supplicate ym that our commen hand bell ye quhilk being acclesiastic and belonging to or Sessione may be deleverit to us againe.

15 *Feby.* 1637.—The sessione orderit the high seat next Andro Lambis to be lockit up & reservit for the searchers to resort to efter thair search.

(*Note.*—The Searchers were members of Session appointed to go through the town in time of sermon to look into windows and wynds and to discover and apprehend any who were walking the streets or otherwise prophaning the Sabbath Day.)

Junii 15 1637.—The Thesaurer is ordained to goe to a Knokmaker & cause visit or Knok (*i.e.* clock) in Lyth yt ye defect yrof may be knownen & amended.

Julie 13 1637.—The qlk day the sessione admited Mr James Robertson and entered him to be maister of ye gramer scool & delivered him ye keyes yrof wt these condishons following (to wit) That ye said Mr James Rotsone sal be bownd to teach ye said Gramer scool for ye space of fyve zeiris to cum and induring ye qlk space he shall not countenance or resort to any publick exerciese of theologie or any presbetarie meitings nor present himselfe to any pulpet (2) That he sall seldome resort to Edr. or to other places (3) That he sall not leave ye scool ane wholl day togider witout Licence asked and given (4) That he sall not admit any to be his docter wtout ye advyce and allowance of ye sessione; item yt in case it sall happen induring ye said space or any tyme yrafter as god forbid yt ye said Mr James doe prove negligent or caireles of ye said scoole in yt case be advyce and sight of ye sessione he being warned the spece of ane quarter of a zeire before & being discharged be ye sessione he sall not attempt to appeal from ye sessione to any other Judicatorie eather civill or acclesiasticall wtin this Kingdome under ye paine of two hundreth punds; For ye qlk cause the sessione bindes ymselves zeirlie indureing ye said space to pay to ye said Mr James Robertson at Mairtenmas and Witsonday be equall portiones the soume of ane hundreth punds of zeirlie steipend togidder wt

ye ordenar benefice yt he can purchas in ye scoole of the childrens quarter payments also ye session promiss yt no other scool sal be permited in this toune but the Gramer scoole and musick scoole and the Bailzeis promiss yr assistance for this effect.

(*Note.*—From later Minutes it will appear that this schoolmaster gave the Session much trouble.)

20 *Julie* 1637.—This day the maisters of ye new hospitall did supplicat ye sessione that they would tak ye superioretie & patronage of it that no ors should presume heirafter to have any titell yrto but ye sessione onlie.

Agust 10 1637.—This day Wm. Smyth Knokmaker hes condishoned with ye Sessione to mend or Knok (*i.e.* our clock) sufficientlie good and weill as she hes evir beene befoir And the Session promises to giv him 22 Rexdollars for his satisfactione.

(*Note.*—A Rix-dollar was equal to £2, 18s. Scots money.)

2 *November* 1637.—This day the sessione hes appoynted Wm. Redoch Thesaurer . . . to bring ye keyes of ye chest that be ye sight of Mr Wm Mortoune, minister, Wm. Banks & those yt keipes ye keyes the wholl number of Bonds yt ar yrinto for securities of or churches moneyes may be seine & cause ym to be renewed for or furder & better securetie.

(*Note.*—The Riddochs are a very old Leith family, long connected with shipping, and their names occur frequently in the Minutes. One of this family at the present time is wife of a well-known citizen of our town.)

14 *December* 1637.—This day Sir Thomas Thomsone of Duddingstone presented to or Session in name of my Lord Generall Ruthven ane greate gould coupe ye shell thairof of upricht beeten gould, ye fit (*i.e.* foot) and stalk thairof of silver ower guilt with gould, and an Trincher of wroucht beatten gould, and those for ye use of this or Church for ye service of or communion and did supplicat yat it micht please ye sessione to cause procure libertie and access to the Tailzears fore laigh seat in ye church for ye use of ye said Nobell Lord, his wyf and children during yr residence in Leyth and also that they would cause reserve ane Buriall place in ye church for himselfe to wit my Lord Generall Ruthven that qn it sall please ye Lord God to call him from this lyfe that his corpes may be interred thair; And our Sessionne Willinglie granted his petititione and promised those two things suld be provyded. The qlk Coupe and Trincher the parsone of Restalrig Moderatoure for ye tyme hes received and taken into keiping.

(*Note.*—Sir Thomas Thomson owned the lands of Easter and Wester Duddingston, and was great grandson of Robert Barton, the Scotch Admiral, famous for his ship the great St. Michael. The Admiral is believed to have been buried in South Leith Churchyard. General Ruthven was nephew to the Earl of Ruthven, who took a part in the murder of Rizzio. He had won some fame as a soldier in the wars of Gustavus Adolphus. At this date he was Governor of Edinburgh Castle and Commander-in-Chief of the army in Scotland. He was a staunch Royalist, and later on fought for King Charles, who created him Earl of Forth and Brentford. He died and was buried in England. It may be noted that this is the first mention of Communion vessels in the Minutes.)

17 *December* 1637.—The qlk day in presence of or Sessione compeared personallie Rot. Fargusone Visitour and with him Hendrie Christie Isack Johnstone, Andrew Marlawe and Wm. Skedauce for themselves and in name of ye remenent brethren of ye Taillzeour Craft in Leith That for sameikell as our Session of before earnestly requistet and desyred ye said Visitoure and Brethering of ye said Crafte to give libertie and licence to my Lord Generall Ruthven to sit in ye leach fore seat appertaining to ye said Taillzeour Craft in this or Church of Lyth, and yt during such space as ye said Nobell Lord and his Ledie his wyfe and children sall remayne and have their dwelling in Leith and that ye said Visitour and Brethering hes alreadie upon thair awin charges and expenses with our consentes inlearged the said Leach fore seat to ye use of ye said Nobell Lord his wyfe and children upone ye conditions following to Wit that it sall no ways be hurtfull nor prejudiciall to ye said Taillizours in Leyth and thair successors anent ye libertie of thair Seat and that ye samen sall not be altered nor broken doune nor made in worse esteat nor it is now at this present tyme in any sort; As Also that ye Taillzeours of Lyth sall have ye keaping of ye dore and keayes thairof and sall sit in ye rest of ye laich seats in ye meine tyme

and in all tyme cuming heirefter as they have been in use of before; And that ye libertie of the said forseat sall in noways be a preparative to his Lordship nor to any other manner of personnes to sit thairin efter yt ye said Nobell Lord and his Ledie sall be pleased to remove thairfrom, Quhairfore and in respect of ye said Visitour and remenent Brethering of ye said Taillzeour Craft thair willing consent heirto the said Ministeres Elders and Deacons of our said Sessione faithfullie promises Bindes and Obliges ym and thair Successors yt ye conditions foresaid sall be trewlie keiped and performed to ye said Visitoures and ye Brethering of ye said Craft in Lyth in all points as is above wreatten in all tyme cuming without fraud or gyle (*i.e.* guile). And thairupone we have ordained thir presents to be acted in yis or Sessione Book and the Extract to be drawen out and gevin to ye said Visitour and ye remenent Brethering of ye said Craft.

4 *Januarie* 1638.—This day the Session hes dischairged all ye craftes yr ordenare meitings & trystes to be in ye sessione hous heirafter.

(*Note.*—The Minute of 20 July 1637 and this Minute point to a conflict betwixt the Session and the Incorporations in regard to the ownership or management of the Hospital. It is believed that the meetings of Session took place in the Hospital where also the music school met. From this date the crafts probably had their meetings in the music school or in some room of the Hospital other than that used by the Session. The Minutes give little light on these matters.)

11 *Januarie* 1638.—This day it is ordained yt no man sall collect ye poores moneys at ye church dore untill or sessione clark appoynt ye offiser to warn ye most fiting men.

1 *Februarie* 1638.—This day the sessione hes ordained yt ye Theasaurer sall cause Badges to be made & put upon or owne poore yt they may be knowen to be owrs & morover yt all yt ar pensioners salbe restrained for byging (*i.e.* begging) or yt any sall stand at ye Church dore for beging or wtin ye Church.

(*Note.*—These two Minutes may be read together. The first refers to an important provision for the poor, viz., voluntary collections, which were taken each Sunday and often on week-days also when there was preaching. In 1579 an Act of Parliament was passed providing an assessment for the poor, but without much effect, and in 1672 another Act directed that when church contributions were not sufficient, deserving paupers should be supplied with badges, entitling them to ask alms within their parish. The badges were stamps of lead, bearing the name of the parish, supplied by the Session, and worn on the gowns. These professional or licensed beggars were known as bluegowns or gaberlunzies. Begging at church doors is still common on the Continent.)

Februar 15, 1638.—The Sessione hes ordained ye heigh Seat nixt to Mr Andrew Lambe his Seat that it sall be lockit up and reserved for the Searchers after ye Search.

(*Note.*—The family of Lamb has probably the longest connection with our church. In 1560 the representatives from Leith to the first General Assembly included Andrew Lamb, in whose house Queen Mary on her return from France passed a whole day. Lamb's Court was taken down about 1850, and its site is now occupied by part of Bernard's Distillery. Another member of the family was Andrew Lamb, Bishop of Galloway, who in 1621 gifted to the Session five acres of land, now part of Seafield Cemetery. In his Deed the Bishop says that he and his predecessors had been born and brought up in Leith for 300 years. The gift was intended to provide for two pensioners in the Hospital, to be presented by the Bishop and his heirs, and this arrangement continued until the Hospital was taken down in 1822. In 1823 the Session made a new agreement with Colonel Cheyne, eldest son of Dr John Cheyne of Leith, heir and legal representative of Bishop Lamb. By this agreement the Session undertook to pay sixpence per day to each of the pensioners. The right of presentation was sold in 1895 to the Rev. Gildard Jackson, Rector of St. James. The pensions still continue to be paid.)

May 31, 1638.—The Taillzeours in respect they have broken yr covenant made betwxt ym and ye Sessione conferring yr seat for Generall Ruthven. The Sessione has ordained yt yei desist from siting in yr leach fore seat in ye Church and cover ye same with yr gem cloath and cause those that did misbehave ymselves to ye Generall to produce ym to ye Session.

Julij, 19 *day* 1638.—The Sessione has ordained ye Wyn Venteners in Leyth to be chairged to ye nixt day and to be caused thair to pay yr imposts of yr Wyn to or Sessione or otherways to be wairned to convene before ye church Theasaurer and two others of or Sessione and to them they sall pay their Impost and we ordaine this to be the way of ye said Collectione.

30 *Agust* 1638.—Ordained the Thesaurer to goe to the Laird of Pilrig and give to him ye silver cup yt was given to ye church be Wm. Balfour & to sie it wayed & according to ye worth yrof allow of so much of ye pryse of or silver Basens & cupes for or communone the qlk he hes made to or church & ordour ym to be ressairved be him.

(*Note.*—The Balfour here mentioned belonged probably to a family of merchants in Leith who gave the ground on which King James' Hospital was built. The Laird of Pilrig was Gilbert Kirkwood, who in 1634 bought the estate from the family of Monypenny. He appears to have been a goldsmith, which was then a lucrative occupation, and in 1638 he built the present Pilrig House.)

Oct. 12, 1638.—The said Day thair was presented And Delivered to or Sessione Two silver Basons . . . wt Two silver Coupes . . . The qlk Basons And Coups or sessione appoynted to be made be the Leard of pilrig, And in payment thairof or sessione caused that the gowld coupe and gowld Trinchar that was given be richt honerabill Generall Ruthven to or church for or communione as also or sessione directed ane other silver piece to be sold to him in payment. The qlk silver piece was Laft to or church be Wm. Balfour in his ler will. The foresaid Basens is appoynted to be keeped in or Chairtour Chist for the Service of or communione of the bodie and blood of Jesus Chryst.

(*Note.*—These two silver basins are still possessed by the church. They are engraved on the rim thus: "DEO AND ECCLESIAE LETHENSI AVSTRALI DI PA RUTHVEN EQUITVM TRIBVNVS ME D. D. 1638": and on the inner circle thus—"LONGIORI USU ATTRITUM ET LACERATUM INSTAURARI ET E PURIORI ARGENTO DENUO CONFLARI CURAVIT DICTAE ECCLESIAE CONSISTORIUM ANNO DOMI 1718." The latter inscription indicates that they were repaired in 1718.)

November 15, 1638.—Ordaines the Theasaurer to pay Mr Wm. Mortoune his terms steipand.

29 *November* 1638. — The sessione hes ordained to ressaive ye keyes of ye chest . . . & tak owt ye silver work to wit ye 2 Basens & ye two coups & present ym to Generall Ruthven showing ye richt doeing of ye work & the said commissioners sall bring ym bak to ye said kist againe.

The said day petitione being given be sum of ye nyhbours for advysing in ye chusing of ane church officer neveryeless the sessione voyted orderlie quho should be beedall & wt one voyce they chused Thomas Stewensone, Maltman . . . & also ye session ordaines yt if ever he be found to neglect his chairge ather he being drunken or in otherwayes the sessione sall dischairge him from ye said office qrupon the sessione does deliver ye keayes of ye church Dore to him.

Jany. 17, 1639.—Coronell Hume his Ledie having gevin supplication for an Seat in or Kirk thairfor the Sessione has given hir ye use of the seat yt Mr Nathaniell did possess. For acknowledgment to our poore she hes gevin 20 merks.

Feby. 7, 1639.—Ordaines ye Theasurer to wait upon ye Ministeres and enterteine ym on ye Sessiones charge.

28 *Aprilie*, 1639.—David Forbes did advise or congregaone to protest against Mr William Mortoune in respect yt he did desert his ministrie in this congregaone wtout license of ye presbetrie or his congregaone. Thairfor the sessione hes ordained the Reider of or church to reid ye said protestatione ye last saboth after noone qlk is this instant sabboth moderatoure was Mr Wm. Nairne.

(*Note.*—In 1638 the period of Episcopacy came to an end in Scotland, and a second reformation ensued, in which the Presbyterians soon got rid of Episcopal Ministers. Beyond the references here given the Minutes give no details of this change, which must have been accompanied with considerable distress. The Rev. William Morton, second minister, disappeared in January 1639, and the Rev. William Wishart, first minister, was deposed in June 1639. *Vide* Minutes *supra* 6th May 1630 and 1st March 1631.)

26 *May* 1639.—Ordaines the neighbours to be conveined on Sonday nixt for chusing of Commissioners to goe to my Lord Balmirrinoch.

(*Note.*—In 1609, after the Gowrie Conspiracy, King James bestowed the estates of Logan of Restalrig upon Lord Balmerino along with the patronage of the first charge. Balmerino House stood at the corner of Coatfield Lane in the Kirkgate. The greater part of it was demolished three years ago to make room for the new Roman Catholic School. When Charles II.

visited Leith in July 1650 he stayed at Balmerino House.)

May the 28, 1639.—The quhilk day the sessione togidder wt the remainand neighbours of this or congregatione being convened for ye business, viz., to wit yt upon ye last Sabboth being the 26 of this instant May the session having given order to . . . to pas to ye Lord Balmarrenoch wt comissione from us to intret hes Lordship to present an minister to or church being Lord patrone thairof & the said Commissioners having followed thaire comissione they have reported that ye Lord Balmirrinoch hes promised to present Mr James Sharpe minister in govane of quhom or wholl sessione & neighbours ar contented to accept of & thairupone ordaines for to goe to Glasgow to ye presbetarie thaire . . . wt an Letter from or presbetrie of Edr. togidder wt an subscrived comissione from us that ye said presbetrie of Glasgow would be pleased to grant transportaone to the said Mr James Sharpe from ye church of govane to or church of Leith for filling of ye functione of sumetyme Mr Wm. Wishard late parsone of Restelrig quha was deposed be ye ordenance of or Assemblie holden at Glasgow or be the Comittee thairof.

August 29, 1639.—The quhilk day according to ye ordinence of ye Generall Assemblie holden at Edinburgh ye Twelfth day of ye month aforesaid thair cum heir to or Church for admissione of Mr James Sharpe to be or first Minister for Restalrig and Leith Mr John Sharpe Moderatoure of or Presbyterie of Edinburgh quho did preach and admit ye said Mr James Sharpe being accompanied with Mr Adam Coutt, Minister of Misselburgh, Mr Wm. Arthour, Ministere of St. Cudbards, Mr Wm. Colmen, Minister in Edinburgh, Mr Archibald Newtoune, Ministere of Libbertoun with many other Ministers. And according to ye good and laudabill order of the Kirk of Scotland was most gratiouslie addmitet be ym and resaved be or congregation to thair gryt comfort wising ye grace and knowledge of God encrease and grow more and more be ye meins of his Ministrie.

(*Note.*—Mr James Sharp was minister of the first charge until his death on 6th January 1646.)

September 5, 1639.—The Sessione hes ordained to give to Mr James Wiseman for his quarter payment for preaching 80 lbs.

Ordains to employ Mr Wm. Forbus to preach untill Mr James Sharpe enter home that he provide for ye second place until we have provyded ane of or owne to be or second minister with ye congregation.

1639, *October* 31.—This day or Minister Mr James Sharpe keeped sessione wt ye old sessione & ordained process to be brought before ym to ye nixt day of sessione.

November 7, 1639.—Because that great abuse is found in the toune by setting (*i.e.* letting) of houses to unlauchful persones Quhairfor ye Sessione renewing ye former Act heiranent ordaines that quhatsoever heritoures or other having richt of houses for setting that if any sall take up on hand for to sett houses or chalmer to any ydell persones not having testimoniall of yr famous lyfes in other places from qch they cum and not having lauchfull callings, and without or Sessiones warrand the said Setters sall pay for the first fault 11 lib toties coties, and ye nixt to be at ye Sessiones pleasour.

(*Note.*—The abuse here referred to was drinking or immorality. The Session had a right to prevent "undesirable aliens" coming into the town, and strangers were not permitted to enter unless they produced testimonials or certificates of the Kirk Sessions whence they came, showing that they were of good character and free from scandal.)

2nd Januarie 1640.—The Session having taken to consideraon ye gryt abuse of ye volgor sort of people quho cuming on ye setterday to give up yr Bannis matremoniall to be proclaimed Thairafter spends the most of the nicht in ryoting and drinking so yt they have no regard for preparaone to ye saboth following. Quhairfore hes ordained that those quho sall have ye lyke adoe They sall present ymselves euerie Thursday at or sessione before any other process be callit for yt effect.

(*Note.*—The giving in of names for proclamation was called and considered a marriage contract, and numerous "contracts" appear in the Minutes. The Presbyterians, coming back into power in 1638, were not slow to allege that the Episcopalians had relaxed the rules of the church and of propriety, and that

scandals had arisen thereby. This Minute shows that the marriage jollification began with the "contract," and seems to indicate that the Session took over the business out of the hands of the Session Clerk. It was common on such occasions for the friends of the bride and bridegroom to meet in a tavern and send for the Session Clerk. The business was soon despatched, then bickers of ale were called for, and the celebrations went beyond Presbyterian notions of decorum. Later we shall see that restrictions were also made on feasts at marriages.)

Januarie 2, 1640.—Ordaines that intimation be made out of ye pulpit on ye Lord's day next inveiting all ye Sessioners and honest neighbours to convein efter sermon for giving up ane Leit of Ministers of ye qlk we are yrefter to elect ane to be or Second Minister.

Januarie 5, 1640.—The fyfth day of January foresaid the neighbours and Session being conveined for leiting of ane Roll of Ministers qm of ane micht be thairafter chosen they did give upe wt comen consent Vizt. Mr David Dalgleish, Mr John Hamiltoune, and Mr George Sharpe, Mr Alexr Gibson, and Mr Wm. Forbus.

9*th Januarii* 1640.—The barberis are inhibit to poll or barbarieze on the Lords day under paine of 54 merks shillings apiece for ye first fault.

9 *Januarie* 1640.—The Sessione hes ordained ye Ballies to apprehend ane Dutch man quha put furth ye sailes of his shipe to dry on ye Lords day in tym of divyne service and cause him pay fyve pounds aucht shillings money and produce it to ye sessione ye nixt sessione day.

Januarie 22, 1640.—The sessione ordaines that quhosoever may cause apprehend Margaret Watson quho resorts to this toune from ye cannoget being infamous be hir drunkennes and such lyk that they produce hir to ye civill magistrats to be put in ye joges and correction hous.

Februarie 4, 1640.—Ordenance was given to ye thesaurer to pay Mr John Dolope burser or sexteine pounds of pensione yt we ar in custome of for maintainance of an Bursar in ye colledge of St Androes.

Februarie 6, 1640.—The qlk day ye Sessione appoynted three of thaire number, viz. Sir Jerome Lindsay, James Crafoord, and ane James Settoun or any two of ym to goe upe to Edr to ye conferance required for be ym of ye said presbetarie of Edr wt ye sex Commissioners of ye neighbours of Leith and to meit wt ye comissioners of ye said presbetrie of Edr appoynted for agreeing freindlie ye pnt differs betwixt ye Ballies of Leith and ye said sessione and congregaone anent ye booking or not of Ballies names in ye sessione book or magistrats and anent ye manner of presentaone granted to Mr Alexr Gibsone, expectand fer to be admited minister at or said Kirk.

6 *Februarie* 1640.—Arshbald Lawrie in ye cannoget is ordained to enter to ye sak cloath on Sonday nixt.

(*Note.*—The gravity of an offence was indicated by the dress in which the culprit appeared for rebuke. As a rule, people came up for admonition in their very best church clothes, but in cases of grievous scandal they were required to appear in sackcloth or linen sheets.)

13 *Februar* 1640.—Arsbald Lawrie indweller in ye cannoget gave in supplicaone yt ye sessione might be pleased to grant him favorie not to stand in sack cloath in ye church dore but onlie in ye stoole of publict repentance The qlk the sessione hes granted and ye man is ordained to pay 16 lib. 4s. the qlk he grantit voluntarlie he not being urged yrunto.

27 *Februarie* 1640.—Archbald Lowrie in ye Cannogett is ordained to be ressaived from ye place of publict repentance and he hes given to ye poore in all 20 *lib.*

(*Note.*—The censure of the Session was administered in three different ways according to the degree of scandal involved. Sometimes the culprit stood up in his own seat, confessed his sin, and was rebuked. At other times he presented himself in front of the pulpit for admonition. And when the scandal was great he had to mount an elevated stand, technically called the public place of repentance, and commonly known as the "pillar" or "stool." It was not once only that offenders had to appear in public, but they had to undergo a course of repentance. The offender here for his charity to the poor was first released from appearing in sackcloth and then he had his course of repentance shortened.)

Februarie 27, 1640.—Ordaines ye Bedell to go and receave ye Keas of ye heigh Seat yt is above ye Leach seat belonging to ye Trafickers heirtofore and deliver ye samen to ye Lord Balmerinoch and his people of Restalrig that it may be keiped allenarlie for his Lordship and his people until ye last Bell doe ring for ye sermones and yn to be set opene to all yt hes neid of roume to heir gods word.

March 5, 1640.—The Sessione ordaines the Theasaurer with any of the Sessione yt he can conveine with him to goe and visite ye wreates of ye fyve ackers of Lands in Newhaven belonging to or Sessione yt order may be taken wt ye Labourers yrof.

March 5, 1640.—Ordaines to regrait to ye toune of Edr ye gryt abuse of ye Sabboth by ye gryt resort of yr people to Leith and vaiges and drinkes in tym of divine service that the ministers may be pleased to cause amend ye samyn.

March 26, 1640.—The qlk day the Minister Mr James Sharpe conveined with ye neighbours and Sessione conform to ye ordinnence of ye Presbyterie of Edr daited ye twentie of yis instant did inquire at Robert Fleming and Lowrens Hendersone Bailzies quhider they would consente to ye electione of Mr Alexander Gibsone to serve at ye Church of South Leithe to be second Minister and ye said Bailzies being required by the said Mr James Sharpe the Bailzies consented thairunto.

Heire follows the Sessione and neighbours their pretestatione against ye asking of ye Bailzies voyces for our Minister.

The qlk day in presence of a Notter Publick and Witnesses under wreatten compeared personallie Alexander Hay James Johnstone Neighbours and indwellars in Leith for ymselves and in name and behalfe of ye haill remanent neighbours of all ye four vocationes and haill parocheners of Leith and Restalrige in ye Sessione house of ye said Kirk juditiallie and wt ym ye Session house full of neighbours of ye said parochin for ymselves and in name and in behalfe of ye said Kirk Sessione Hospital poore and heall Congregatione present and to come and thaire Successors Lyk as ye said day and place compeared personallie with ym Archibald Kinked Reweling (*i.e.*, *ruling*) Elder for ye said Kirk and parochine and ane of ye ordinaire Elders thaire for himself and in name and behalfe of ye heall Elders and Deacones of ye said Church and Sessione and in name and behalf of ye said Kirk Sessione, Hospitall poore and rightes thairof heall Congregatione present and to come and thaire successors and in presence of ane Notter Publick under wreatten declaired and Protested all in one voyce judiciallie as follows quhair unto ye heall Elders and Deacons of ye said Pariochin adhered for the weill of ym and thair successors and ye Kirk and others foresaids That Mr James Sharpe Minister of Leith his asking of ye voyces or consent of Robt. Fleming and Laurens Hendersone Bailzies of Leith to ye electione presentatione or entrie of Mr Alexander Gibsone to ye charge of ye Ministrie or cure of ye said Kirk of Leith now before or after be quhatsover authoritie ground or Warrand not competent or laughfull according to ye Lawes of yis Kirk and Kingdome nor hurtfull to ye rightes or possession of or said Kirk Sessione Hospitall poore and heall congregation present and to come and thair successors of any of ym and speciallie be ordinance of ye presbyterie of Edr Quha ar ane ecclesiasticall judicatorie the presentations being meirlie Civill quhairin they can have no entries to judge quho ar or should be ye lauchfull presentaries or judge on ye Validitie or nocht Validitie of any presentatione or to super advoyces thairto sall not be valid hurtful or prejudiciall to ym or any of ym now or heirtafter in any tym cuming and yt ye asking of thaire voices or consent and inroling ye samen in manner and conform to ye act mentioned in ye said Sessione of ye said Kirk yair Bookes of ye day dait and zeire of God foresaid is hurtfull or prejudiciall to ye said four vocationes heal Parochiners Kirk Sessione, poor, richts and liberties thairof and thair successors and yat ye craving and asking of thair voyces is done against ye protestaries and yr adhearants particularie and generallie above mentioned and consents and is onlie ye soll proper deed of Mr James Sharpe one of ye Presbyteries number at thair requist and so and for the causes foresaids not warrantablie or legallie doone and so null and thairfor protestes for remeid of law civill

and ecclesiasticall and qt is doone be ye said Mr James Sharpe Bailzies or others qtsoever is null and sall not infer to be an preparative Richt ground Tytill claime or richt or infer any professione to ye said Bailzies or Town of Edr. or thair successors now nor heirafter and yt none hes richt or possessione to Voice or ask ye Voices in ye said Electione bygone or to come of ye calling of ye Ministers of Leith with Mr James Sharpe and his successors or subscrive ye presentationes of Mr Alexander Gibsone or his successors except conform and in manner mentioned in Mr Alexander Gibsones Subscrivit presentatione trewlie and lauchfullie subscribed be those thairin mentioned granted and given to him quhairin ye said two Bailzies of Leith were and are excluded as having no entries and so no Votters consentors or subscrivers qlk protestatione declaratione as said is The said Protesters and their adherents required and protested ye samyn sal be inrolled and inacted in ye Kirk Sessione Books of ye South Church of Leith and Restalrig to ye effect therein mentioned Quhairupon the said Alexander Hay James Johnstone Archibald Kinked and divors others as said is did take Instruments in ye hands of ane Notter Publick under subscrivant and Charles Watson Clerk and Reider to ye said Kirk of South Leith This was done within ye Session House of ye said South Kirk betwixt eleven and Twelf houres before noone Before thir witnesses Walter Steward lauchfull sonne to Henrie Steward Burgess of Bamf Mr James Hay Wreator in Edinburgh John McKorre and Wm. Forrester doctors of ye gramer scool of Leith.

Et subscribitur

est Archibaldus Glegor Notarius Publicus ad premissa Rogatus et requisitus ab hac manu propria.

Quhairupone Rot Flemming and Laurence Hendersone present Baillies of Leith deputes of ye Toun of Edinburgh did protest in ye contrare But yt no Minister for Leith could or should be elected without ye Baillis Voyces And yrfore that ye former protestatione and Instruments taken be ye Session and neighbours should not prejudge the Toun of Edinburgh in that particular or any other right belonging to ye said good toun within Leith or Sessione thairof quhairupon they took instruments in the Clarkes hands.

(*Note.*—The foregoing rambling statements show how strong was the feeling of resentment in Leith against any supposed encroachment on the part of Edinburgh. The two Leith Bailies were nominees of the Edinburgh Town Council, and for years, as the Minute Book shows, it had been disputed whether or not they had a right to have their names put on the roll of the session, or to vote in the election of the second minister. The dispute was carried to the Presbytery who issued a Decree in favor of the Bailies, and it was this Decree which was now being acted upon. The dispute was revived yearly at the annual election of the Session, but the lists always begin with the names of the two Bailies. It was usual for Kirk Sessions to have Bailies on their lists for convenience in invoking the civil authority to enforce their decrees, and probably no question would have arisen but for the insistence of the Edinburgh Town Council.)

Aprile 16, 1640.—The Sessione ordains the thesaurer to mend ye wondocks (*i.e.*, windows) of ye Gramer Scooll and so to ye contentment of ye maister ye qlk salbe allowed.

Ordaines an Testimoniall to be given to Margrit Findlaysone lauchfull dochter to umqll John Findlaysone sumtym drumer in Leith.

Aprile 23, 1640.—This day ye Sessione hes ordained with comon voyce that our Minister Mr James Sharpe sall have every zeir induring his chairg heir four hundredth merks and yt in gratuitie conform to custom yt hes been practised to others hes predecessors and yt from ye Sessione.

Aprile 30, 1640.—The quhilk day according to ye order and lawes of yis Kirk and Kingdome vizt The leites being long before made use of quho had been leited for or second Minister The whole Sessione and Congregatione having voyced for to have Mr Alexander Gibsone expectant to be or Second Minister colege (*i.e.* colleague) with Mr James Sharpe and having subscrived an presentation to him The Presbytery also having taken tryall of his good qualification in Litrator and good conversatione and accordinglie The wholl Ministrie of ye said Presbetrie cam down to this Kirk and Mr George Leslie ye second Minister in ye Abey Church did preach and thairafter Mr Androw Ramsay Minister in ye Northwest Church of

Edinburgh (*i.e.*, one of St. Giles' Churches) admited ye said Mr Alexander Gibsone in solemn manner according to the order prescrived in or reformed Kirk and delivered ye Bybell to him and the Ministrie and Sessione resseived him graciouslie.

(*Note.*—Mr Alexander Gibsone was Minister of the second charge from this date until 1657. This period is memorable on account of the plague and the occupation by Cromwell. In May 1644 Mr Gibsone was appointed by the Presbytery to attend the Covenanting Army going into England. From various circumstances it appears that Mr Gibsone was an able and highly esteemed minister.)

May 7, 1640.—The Sessione ordained Wm Ridoch or Church Thesaurer for ye tyme to give to Mr Wm Forbus expectant for two quarters of an year preaching in or Church in yat tyme of or want of a second Minister 160 libs.

(*Note.*—£160 Scots is £13, 6s. 8d. sterling.)

June 18*th*, 1640.—The Session hes ordained to goe to ye Counsell of Edr and desyre them to cause yr Toune Clerk deliver or Covenant to us, and if the said Counsell refuse it ordained to goe to ye Presbetrie Mr James Sharpe or Minister and Rot Fleming our present Baillie deput for Edinburgh for this yeire.

18 *Junii* 1640.—The clark of St. Antonies is ordained to produce ye wholl wreates yt ar is his hands belonging to or superioretie of St. Antonies ye qlk he retaines in his hands.

2 *Julie* 1640.—The sessione hes ordained Wm Ridoch or church Theasurer for ye tyme to give to Mr Wm Mortouns wyfe in his absence for yt qlk ye sessione wes awing (*i.e.*, owing) to him for four monthes preaching before his despositione Three hundreth marks.

(*Note.*—The reference is to the Rev. William Morton, minister of South Leith, of whom mention has been made above. A mark or merk was 13s. 4d. Scots money, and 300 marks was £16, 13s. 4d.)

Julie 23, 1640.—This day ye Collectors of ye Volunteer Contribution for helping to defray ye comon charges of or defensive ware delivered at ye directione of ye Sessione the wholl soum to ye comittie of estet or the generall commissioner att ye Comittees comand The whole soum extending to 1034 . . . and reseived an Ticket for ye said Commr. of ye reset thairoff the qlk was put in or charter chest.

(*Note.*—This collection was taken to assist the Covenanters in their preparations for the coming war.)

30 *Julie* 1640.—The relict of umqll Generall Leslie younger sent to or sessione for ye use of an leauch seit in ye church sumtym belonging to umqll Bernard Lyndsay.

10 *September* 1640.—Mitchall Robertsons wife is ordained to be put in ye Joges for reseting of infamous persons.

(*Note.*—The most common form of corporal punishment inflicted by the Session was confinement in the jougs or iron collars put round the necks of delinquents. They were part of the paraphernalia of every church long ago, and were fixed either at the gate or to a tree or in the wall of the church beside the door. The jougs of Duddingston Church may still be seen hanging at the Churchyard gate. It is said that the jougs of South Leith were removed in 1848 at the restoration of the Church, and that they are still in the town.)

October 8, 1640.—Alexr Machen for drinking in tym of devine service on ye Lords day was caused to pay an pecuniall soume and consented yt he sould be acted that if he be found in ye lyk yat ye sessione should punish him condignlie.

November 12, 1640.—In respect yt thair is an publict fast to be solemnized ye nixt thursday godwilling no sessione is to be keeped untill thursday cum aught dayes the 26 of this instant.

November 26, 1640.—The quhilk day having incallit upon ye name of God the Theasurer was ordained to pay ye ordiner Steipands to wit to Mr Alexr. Gibsone or Minister four hundredth Marks and fiftie, to Mr James Sharpe or Minister of gratuitie two hundredth marks, to Charles Watson Reider an hundredth pounds to Mr James Rotsone scoolmaister an hundredth pounds and that for ye term of Martinmas 1600 and fourtie zeirs.

26 *November* 1640.—In respect yt such gryt blasphemie and swearing is so frequentlie used be ye most pairt of all people to ye gryt dishonoure of God and to ye scandelizing of or reformed kirk it is ordained yt for ye tyme the sessioners sall in ye feare of God and in modest

manner attend so far as may be upone ye streets and since no other means can curbe ye said vice and gryt sining as said is to cause everie one accordinglie as ye offence is to ye abilatie of ye offender to pay an pecuniall soume or otherwayes to put ym in ward, and for ye better expeding heirof the Ballies hes promised their concurence and gives yr authoretie theirto in yr owne absence.

(*Note.*—The Treasurer kept a box in which he collected the fines. This form of penalty was much in favour with the Session for the reason that the fines went for the good of the parish, and especially for behoof of the poor.)

3 *December* 1640.—The quhilk day having incalled upon ye name of God the sessione ordained or Baillie of St Antons to call an court to be keeped on frydday ye auchtene day of this month and the ministers with als many of ye sessioners as may attend to be present thaire.

10 *December* 1640.—The session with full consent ordaines Mr Patrick Maver or clerk to St Antones to have everie Zeire from ye sessione so long as he hes yt office twentie marks money of standing fie.

December 31, 1640.—The session having taken to heart ye gryt misorder and prejudice yt is doone be persones quha takes other tymes for solemnizatione of yr mariage nor ye good order of ye kirke hes be or Reformaone prescribed Quharefore ordaines yt non be maried but at preaching on ye week dayes and ordaines yt ye samyn be intemated out of pulpit on ye nixt Lords day.

(*Note.*—It may surprise some people to be told that the written law of the Church has always required the solemnisation of marriage to be publicly conducted in church. The day recommended at this time was the day of the weekly lecture, which in South Leith was Thursday, and the Session were restricting marriages to that particular day. It was not until next century that the custom set in of marrying in private houses, and at first the permission of the Session had to be got, and a sum consigned to the poor.)

25 *Febr* 1641.—The qlk day the sessione being conveined was reported be Sir Jerom Lyndesay ye proceidings of ye presbeterie of Edr as also the said presbeteries Act was produced for nominating and inserting ye ballies names in or sessione bookes, the qlk Act was ordained to be insert in or sessione book and ye prinsipall to be keeped in or Chairtour Chist. The copie heir followes . . .

(*Note.*—The Act is here given. This ended for the time an old question with Edinburgh. The Sessions for 1641, instead of being elected at the beginning of the year as was the rule, were not elected until the month of March. Elders were, in modern phrase, "eligible to be re-elected" at the end of each year. The Session was large, there being 15 elders and 15 deacons, and the Session were the local authority of the parish. Each elder was responsible for his district, and acted the part of policeman and detective. He investigated scandals, delated offenders, patrolled markets, supervised the taverns, and went round at night to see that his people were within doors by ten o'clock, hence the expression "elders hours." These duties took up much time, and, as a strict discipline was observed within the Session, it was difficult at times to get new members even although the dignity and importance of the office was very considerable.)

March day 4, 1641.—The said day Sir Jerome Lyndsay made relatione and declared in name and behalfe of ye sessione that some few yeires before this tyme the Counsaill of Edr or ane in thair names did ressaive the Golden Chairtour for sichting of it and had yn promised to produce ye samyn bak againe wt expeditione quhairupone ye Sessione requysted Andrew Henslie and John Peirsone ballies in Leith for ye tyme to speak ye said Counsaill of Edr for or said Chairtour of or new hospetall callid ye Maltmans Hospetaill and to report thaire anser ye nixt Sessione day if they head re-delivered ye samyn bak to us againe or to any in or names.

(*Note.*—The Golden Charter was granted by King James VI. to the Kirk Session on 2nd March 1614. It bestowed on the Session the church and churchyard, the lands of St. Anthony's, the chapel of St. James' at Newhaven, and other subjects. From a legal point of view South Leith Church is therefore different from the ordinary Parish Church, which is the property of the heritors; but South Leith Church was all along occupied and possessed by the Incorporations and Kirk-Session as their property, and they let the sittings, drew the revenues thereof, bore the expense of repairs, and paid the stipend of the second minister. The other properties mentioned still belong to the Session, who continue to draw trifling feu-duties from them. The lands of St. Anthony's are now built over, the site of the ancient Preceptory being occupied by the Trafalgar Hall. St. James' Chapel stood on the

right hand side of the Main Street going west. A part of one wall still stands, and the site long appropriated as a cemetery is now a grass covered plot. The newspapers have lately been discussing a proposal by the Free Fishermen's Society to build over this ground.)

March 4, 1641.—Was ordained yt no delincquends should be hard before ye Sessione but be their Bill made be ye clark of sessione heir.

March 11, 1641.—Andrew Henslie and John Peirsone, Ballies in Leith for Edr for ye tym did report yt owr Golden Chairtoure was not in thair hands . . . and ye clark of Edr Mr Alex Guthrie did sweare yt he did redeliver ye said chairtoure bak to my Lord Trakware (*i.e.*, Traquair) or to ane in his name and yt verie shortlie after the sicht of it. It did not rest longer in thair hands.

March 18, 1641.—Ordained yt no prosses be callit heirafter untell ye visitours be asked of yr deligence and they to report and ye wholl sessioners to be speired if they have made any visetatione in thair quarters.

Ordained the whole poore yt ar pensioners of or kirk to be visited and those of ym yt may mak shift and hes no burding may be put from weeklie pensiones.

March day 25 1641.—The qlk day the sessione being conveined and having incallit upon ye name of God the Theasurer wes ordained to draw up ane contrak betwixt ye Sessione and Clements Toures glasen ryght (*i.e.*, Wright) in Edinburgh for upholding ye church Wark and Tolbuth wark and to oblige ye Sessione to give him fourtie marks money zeirlie for ye samyn.

March 25, 1641.—John Rynd . . . presented an Morteficaone left be umqll David Makcall Burges in Edr quhairinto is contained the soume of fyve hundreth marks money left be him to our new hospetall callit ye maltmans hospitall and ordainance was given to ye maisters of ye said hospetall to give an Dischairg at ye reset of ye money.

April 1, 1641.—Quhilk day the sessione according to ye order of or Reformed Kirk for concurance to ye weill governament thairof in discepling did formallie and inditiallie elect James Johnstoune to be rewelling (*i.e.*, ruling) elder for or church for this zeire to repaire and attend to ye presbeterie of Edr everie presbeterie day and to attend ye provinsiall Synod as ye occasone offers and requyres.

(*Note.*—This is the first mention of this appointment, which is still made yearly. The elder attending the Presbytery this year is Mr Ogilvie.)

April 8, 1641.—This day the Sessione wt uneforme consent elected John Mubray (ane of our owne congregaone) to be or comissioner for ye provintiall assemblie to be holden at Linlithgow the 27 day of this instant Aprile for attending upone or business of or church and comissione to be given him for yt effect.

It was ordained yt all Baptems and mariages shall be celebrat and solemnized befor sermon.

The maisters of ye new hospetall was ordained to be spoken concerning the poore in ye said hospetall concerning thair pensiones and quhy they doe not have maintainance, the want quhairof causs ye poore to supplicat ye sessione often and divers tymes.

8 *day of April* 1641.—George Hygen and John Gray was requysted to speak the Callings of ye Toun desyring that they would contribute for closing of ye Lofts att ye feet of ye staires of ym in ye Church and yt for keeping ym quyet from trubell of children in tyme of divine service and yt ye said Callings would cause thair officers to attend for yt effects.

(*Note.*—In olden times, when the seats were few and the area of the church open, services were liable to interruption, not only from children walking about and playing, but from people conducting conversations, or it might be quarrelling about some stool. The beadle was armed with a staff, and it was part of his duties to walk through the church during service to waken sleepers, prevent women covering their heads with their plaids, remove greeting bairns, and generally keep good order.)

8 *April* 1641.—The Sessione ordained hendrie Chrystie or Church Officer to have from or church Thesaurer fourtie marks money and yt for his loss of ye church yaird grass this bygone zeir by resone of ye breaches and toune wall built for ye comon use The qlk soume of fourtie mark he (*i.e.*, the Treasurer) did before pay to his predecessrs. The sessione also

ordained ye said Hendrie Chrystie to have the samyn soume everie zeir untill ye church yaird be put close and in ye old integretie.

(*Note.*—The differences between King Charles and the Covenanters were brought to a head in the riot begun by Jenny Geddes in St. Giles' Cathedral on 23rd July 1637. From that day there existed a state of war, and Leith shared in the general alarm which spread over the country. The walls and fortifications were rebuilt, and it appears from this minute that the churchyard wall was made use of for these purposes. The beadle thereby lost the benefit of the churchyard grass which he probably was in the habit of letting out as pasture.)

13 *May* 1641.—This day the sessione being conveined and after ye incaling on ye name of God the sessione ordained that intimaon should be made out of ye pulpit on ye nixt Lords day That god willing the comunone of Bodie and blood of ye Lord Jesus Chryst was to be celebrated ye nixt Lords day thairafter.

May 13, 1641.—The Sessione ordained yt the comissione qlk was given to Mr James Sharpe and Mr Alexr Gibsone ministers of or church James Johnstoune or rewelling elder John Mubray an of or elders and conjunct wt ym for ye nichtbours Alexr Hay . . . that ye sam should stand in forse and continew for comissione to ym to repaire to ye generall Assemblie to be holden at St Andrews the 15 day of Julie nixt or quhair it sall happen the said Assemblie to sitt.

May 20, 1641.—The order was set doune for ye Sessione to attend upone ye church dores for collectiones to or poore and for attendence everie ane upon thair severall chairge to serve about ye tables at ye comunione the two nixt Sabothes.

Junie 3, 1641.—The quhilk day the Session being conveened and after incalling upon ye name of god compeired Mr Alexr Jonstone advocat and confesit his relapses He payed an pecuniall sowme and ordained to enter to ye place of publict repentance.

Junie day 10, 1641.—The quhilk day ordained yt John Marshall should be absolued from ye place of publict repentance in sak cloath ye nixt Lords day.

Junie day 17, 1641.—Agnes Mein was ordained to enter the sak-cloth the nixt Lords day and stand at ye poarch wt it bear fited (*i.e.*, bare-footed) betwixt ye Bells to the preaching on week dayes and Sabothes and qn ye minister goes to pulpet that she sall be set in ye Repentance Stool according to ye order.

Junie 24, 1641.—The visetours delated Malcom Cadell that he head been profaining the Lords day in fychting, was callit and compeired not quhairfor was remited to ye ballie of Restelreg to pay threttie shillings to or poore.

Julie 1, 1641.—The Ledie Priestfield did supplicate ye Session to give hir ye propertie of an daske in ye church and the Session ordained hir to have the eastmost halfe of the leach desk before ye Saillors leach seats and the Ledie gave aucht Pounds two shillings money to or poore.

(*Note.*—Priestfield or Prestonfield, near Duddingston, at this time belonged to Sir James Hamilton, second son of the first Earl of Haddington.)

Julie 1, 1641.—The quhilk day the Sessione being conveined after incalling on ye name of god the visetours reported yt they fand no misorder in ye toune on ye Lords day last.

Julie 19, 1641.—Agnes Mein was ordained to be absolved from ye place of publict repentance.

Julie 26, 1641.—Ordained Isobell Morgan to enter ye sack-cloath and satisfie according to ye order.

30 *September* 1641.—The sessione being conveined and having incalit upone ye name of god it was taken to consideraone yt it wis more nor tym to heir the compts of ye new hospitall callit ye maltmans hospitall quhairfor thair was ordained for heiring of ym on this day at two hours viz the ministers Sir Jerom Lyndsay and Wm. Campbell.

October day 28, 1641.—Cathren Symson and Hendrie Peirie compeired and payed ane pecuniall soume to ye poore and was ordained to enter on Tuysday to ye place of publict repentance.

Novr 11, 1641.—Isobell Morgan was ressaived in sak-cloath be ye sessione and ordained to be absolved ye nixt Lords day befor ye congregaon.

(*Note.*—This offender had done penance from 26th July.—*Vide supra.*)

December 9, 1641.—The Chairtour of ye house left in Legacie to ye new hospitall be David Jonking burges in Edr was this day subscrived.

23 *December* 1641.—Qulk day ye sessione being conveined and after incalling on ye name of God compeired Mr Thomas Lam in sak cloath and in cold manner upon his knees and confesit his sinfull lyfe hitherto yt he heve led quhairfor he was so angrie at him that he head suffered him to fall in yt gryt sin of slauchter wt such lyk expressiones he spent sum few words and according to ye order prescrived to him be ye presbetrie the sessione ordained him to com on ye nixt Lords day in sak cloath and stand in or gryt porch dore in tym of ye bells ringing to sermon before noone and yt qn ye minister should goe to ye pulpit yt Mr Thomas should be set before ye pulpet on an seit and after sermon to mak his declaraone to ye people.

11 *Januarie* 1642.—Quhilk day the sessione being conveined compeired an Jentill man commissioner from Glenbervies freindes and desyred to have ye corpse of an brother of ye said Glenbervies to have ye samyn layd in our church for a tym the qlk was granted.

(*Note.*—The corpse would be laid probably in the vestry until a boat was got to convey it from Leith to Montrose, or some port in the north.)

Januarie 13, 1642.—The leites of ye new sessione wer given in be ye old.

Januarie 27, 1642.—Qlk day ye sessione being conveined and after incalling on ye name of god Sitation was made at ye sessione dor desiring all or qtsumever persone or persons yt head any thing to say against ye new elected sessioners that they should come in and declair it. Quhairupon the names ar heir set downe in respect yt non impediment was hard of and the Baillies names insert wt the rest according to ye sessiones order.

James Roched and James Eles, Ballies.

. . . (names of Elders and Deacons.)

(*Note.*—The family of Rocheid owned the lands of Inverleith on which the villas of Inverleith Row are built. The family of Elles owned the mansion of Stenhouse, which still stands at Saughton Park.)

Febr 3, 1642.—The quhilk day ye sessione being conveined and after incaling on ye name of god the sessione was appoynted be ye ministers to tak up ye names of all ye people and produce ym to ye table the nixt sessione day that they micht goe on in ye examination for preparaone to ye comunione.

(*Note.*—Before each Communion there were two preliminaries, viz., an examination of the whole congregation and a preparation sermon on the Saturday. Every one was required to know the creed and commandments, whether he was communicating for the first or the fiftieth time, and those who were found ignorant were debarred from the Table along with any guilty of scandal or offence. These examinations were abandoned when Fast Days came to be introduced.)

It was ordained that quhasoever of ye sessioners should be found absent from ye session heirafter at ye ordenar tymes that they sall pay into ye whyt box fourtie pennies according to owr ansient order and acts made heiranent.

Febr day 10, 1642.—Quhilk day the minister Mr Alexr Gibsone regraited to ye sessione his gryt paine he was put to by reason yt he was alwayes obledged to attend ye presbeterie on ye Wedensdayes and to provyd also for preaching on Thursday and thairfor desired ather to condecend for changing ye ordener day of preaching to any other day of ye weik or to take and advyse for sum other way how he micht be easit of this so gryt chairge and ye sessione took it to advise to ye nixt day.

Februarie 17, 1642.—The sessione wt uniforme consent refusit to give thair voyce for altering from Thursdays preaching except John Mubray and James Johnstone elders quhairfor it was thought meit yt sum other overtur should be thought upone against ye nixt day.

(*Note.*—The session apparently regarded the week-day lecture as of the utmost importance. In country places it was held on market days, and in most towns

there were regulations providing that booths and shops should be closed for the service, so that the kirk might be the better "keipit" by masters and servants.)

Marcii 3, 1642.—Christian Craig was censurit upone ane bill of complent given in to ye session be Helen Turnbull and the witneses being examyned ye sessione faund ye bill to be veretie; quhairupone the sessione caused ye offender pay an pecuniall soume and craive mercie of god, and pardon for her scandelizing of ye innosent and to grie wt ye pairtie.

Thomas Wryght botsman for conteming ye word and sacraments was ordained to stand before ye pulpet the nixt Lords day befor noone and yair to confes yt his gryt sinne.

Thomas Wryght Botsman was also ordained to be more carefull heirefter to use ye meines be ordainer attendance upon ye occationes of ye word and sacraments under ye paine of seveire censer.

(*Note.*—"Occasion" was an old Scotch term for Communion.)

Marcii day 17, 1642.—The quhilk day the sessiones referance concerning Mr James Sharpe and Mr Alexr Gibsone owr ministers for finding out of sum overtour quhairby Mr Alexr micht be sumquhat eased of ordainer preaching on ye thursday it being callit and reasoned the sessione thought it verie equitable yt they should preach *per vices* about everie day if it micht please ymselves to agrie thairupon.

24 *March* 1642.—Janet Hoom ordained to enter her repentance in sack cloath the nixt Lords day.

April 7, 1642.—The Tailzours having given in an supplication this day to ye Session desyring that they would be pleasit to remove ye stair yt goes to the Kings Loaft in ye Church and to put in ane glase Windock in yt place for giving light to yair bak seat Leach as they alledged was promised to be doone be ye Sessione in ye zeir of God 1600 and sixteine zeirs at yt tyme qn they sufferid ye said passage to be put thair King James of happie memorie being at yt tyme cum to cuntrie The Sessione having ressoned ye mater they all with ane voyce thought it very resonable yt it should be doone They thairfore ordained the Thesaurer Wm. Riddoch to doe it upon ye Kirks chairges and tak any help that the Taillzeours may give for that effect.

(*Note.*—The King's Loft was built in 1616 in honour of King James I. It appears from later minutes that it was situated towards the east end of the south aisle, where, as this minute shows, the tailors and certain other crafts had their sittings.)

Aprile day 7, 1642.—The quhilk day it was remonstrat to ye sessione how far ye sinnes of scandell swearing and blaspheming of ye holie name of god had spread and ordainerlie practized be manie and in manie pairtes of both owr parichins wtin ye toune of Leith, for ye speidie and effectuall redres heirof they have found yt ye cairefull and deligent observaone of delinquents in this kynd is necessary, and thairfore ordaines everie elder and deacon wtin ye boundes of thair owne quarters for to tak speciall notice if thair be any habituall or notoreous swearer or blasphemer that they may delat ym to ye sessione and thairefter condignelie censered; and because of ye contingencie betwixt this and ye north parish and ye daylie intercourse and continuall conversatione of parichners of ilke of or said parishes that all may be the more redalie observed we give and grant to ye minister and sessioners of ye north congregaone of Leeth or full power to observe deleat censer in everie way wtin ye boundes of owr parish lyk as they have granted to us as we have owr selves and becaus thair be sum places wtin ye toune of more publict and frequent resort quhair ye foresaid vyces ar usuallie most comited the sessione ordaines sum of thair number to be appoynted weiklie to watch over those places for espying of ye conversationes of ye people thair and overhearing them yt no blasphemous speiches be amongst ym and that weiklie the sessioners render an accompt to ye sessione of thair fidelitie and diligence And the Ballies promised thair concurrence and yt they should give order to thair offisers for giving attendance upon ye visetours for ye effect yt hold may be taken upon ye disobedient.

May 5, 1642. — The quhilk day the ministers and sessione ordained yt intemationе should be made out of pulpet ye nixt Lords day that ye comunione of ye bodie and blood of Chryst was to be selebrat the nixt twa Lords dayes that all micht be provyded quha mynded to communicat.

(*Note.*—In olden times it was common to have the Communion celebrated on several successive Sabbaths. The "occasion" was made known throughout the neighbouring parishes, and people travelled long distances to be present at it. There was no restriction as to the number of times a person might communicate. At this period also it was common to begin such services at five o'clock in the morning or even earlier, so that the Communion might be taken fasting, but there were some Christians who preferred the celebration to be in the evening, as being more in keeping with the original Supper.)

May 12, 1642. — The quhilk day the sessione being conveined and having incaled on ye name of god thair was ordained for ye generall places for the service at ye comunione —for ye boord head James Rochhead James Eilles Baillies and Sir Jerome Lyndsay; for ye St. anders chair wtin ye bodie of ye church . . . for ye bak entries . . . for ye wast entries to ye tables . . . ; for ye bread . . . ; for ye wyne cupes . . . for ye stoupes . . . ; to keepe ye wyn in ye house . . . and for the collectione the elders for ye said porch and ye deacones to attend ye other thre styles and James Setoune to be comptabill for ye wholl colections.

May 26, 1642.—The qlk day the Sessione being conveined and after incalling upon the name of God the Sessione ordained yt the Baillie of St Antonie was ordained to draw upe an Roll of ye heritors of St Antonie and quho and quhat is awand to ye Kirk thair Superiores and report ye nixt Sessione day.

June 2, 1642.—The qlk day the Sessione being convened and after incalling on the name of God It was regraited that no order was takin about the Kirks money awen be Umql Alexander Bain and Wm. Comrie everie on of ym five hundredth merkes diligence wes ordained to be usit first in regard yt Wm. Comrie was not able to com out of his hous the maisters of the new Hospital was ordained to tak with ym the civill magistrates and ane Publick Notter to his anne hous and heir his declaratione quhider or not he can deny yt he ressaved yt money from ye hands of Umql Thomas Dalling his man and yt at ye Sessione Table to be mortified for ye use of ye new Hospital he being on of ye Maisters thereof and to tak instruments upon his declaratione in his confessione thairof and thairefter to employ George Crafoord to be our Agent and Procurator before the Sherifes to procure an decreet against him for payment And it was ordained that the Thesaurer and James Johnstone should seek out all ye possess alredie past against Alexr. Baines aires for his hundredth mark, and to follow furth the Process against John Baine Wreater his aire, and to give an account of yr diligence.

Junie 2, 1642.—The moneyes yt was collected through ye toune for supplie of ye poore Erish people put out of yr anne houss and lands in Ireland be the Rebels thair was delivered and extended to Seven hundreth auchtie nyn pounds. The Thesaurer was ordainit to deliver ye samyn to ye comittie and ressave ane dischairge.

(*Note.*—The reference is to a great Irish massacre which was perpetrated at the close of the preceding year. The natives of Ireland were hostile to the English and Scotch settlers, who were Protestants, and made a conspiracy to exterminate them. The number of the victims is stated to have been 40,000. The news of the massacre reached King Charles I. when he was playing golf on Leith Links. The sum collected in the parish for the relief of the fugitives was a large one, having in mind the smallness of the population, the scarcity of money, and the fact that Scotland was at the time practically in a state of war.)

Junie 16, 1642.—Ane complaint was given in be Agnes Sunter against Cathren Mubray for scandelizing of hir and abusing of hir good name. The complaint was proved. The Sessione gave sentence that ye offender should go to ye place qr ye fault was doone and sit doune befor ye dore of yt house and crave ye other offended pardone and to pay an doler to ye poore and for performance thairof was remited to ye Ballies.

It was ordained yt intemationе should be made out of pulpet ye nixt Lords day that Reverence and obedience should be givene to ye censerers of swearers and blasphemers.

Julie 7, 1642.—The qlk day the Session being convened and having incallit on ye name of God, the Maltmen gave in an supplicatione for permission that they might repair their seats in ye church and for enlearging ye bounds of yr leach seat The Session granted ye samyn and yt ye leach seat should be enlarged ane fit before and ane fit behand upone ye Maltmens anne charges.

14 *day Julie* 1642.—The qlk day the Sessione being Conveined and having incallit on ye name of God the Taillzeouris gave in ane supplicatione of new yt ye Session wald be pleasit to cause ye Thesaurer of ye Kirk to put in ye glass Windock at ye baksyd of yr Seat according as was ordained Aprile ye seventh last. It being taken to consideratione our want off moneys for ye tyme It was ordained yt ye Tailloris should advance ye samyn and yt our Church Theasurer should pay to them twentie pounds thairof and no more.

Julie 21, 1642.—The qlk day the Sessione being convened and having incalled on ye name of God The Taillzeouris gave in ane Bill aledging yt nather ye Thesaurer nor Clark of Sessione had gevin obedience to ye Sessiones ordinance Alledging that the Sessione did ye last day ratifie yt qlk wes ordained the seventh of Julie last Quhair upone ye Moderator Mr Alexander Gibsone did voyce the same over againe and the Sessione with one voyce declaired that their Bill was false and that no mor was condescend upon to be advanced in the Sessione name but twentie punds money swa that the Clark in this Minute ye last day did justlie, and ye Moderator did reprove ym sharply and exhorted ym to do no more ye lyk, And upon yr requyst it was grantit yt they might mend ye back syd of their leach seat qt was deficient, on yr own charges.

Julie 21, 1642.—Ordinance being given in because of ye want of ane Doctor to ye Gramer Scoole thair was ordained to speake wt ye master to advise qt course micht be takine the ministers, Sir Jerom Lyndsay Wm Ridoch. And it was ordained yt an visitatione should be everie zeir twyse (to wit) the begining of november and the begining of may.

Julie 28, 1642.—In respect of ye gryt burding yt ye sessione hes of weiklie pensioners the sessioners wer ordained to try all of ym wtin thair quarters how they leive and thair abilitie and report of ym ye nixt day of sessione.

Agust 4, 1642.—The session having found the gryt increse of blasphemie and scandell daylie to increse more and more in this congregaone thought yt our comon order of punishment was too litell and yrfor ordained yt intematione should be made out of pulpet on ye nixt Lords day that more exact punishment should be inflected be the Sivill Maiistrat qlk is not expedient nor neidfull to be publised untill yt in tym to cum yt the delinquents find ye practice thairof upone thair persons.

Agust 11, 1642.—Elisabeth Layes ordained to enter ye sak cloath on Tuysday nixt and stand twentie dayes according to ye order.

September 1, 1642. — It was ordained according to ye appoyntment of ye presbeterie be vertew of an Act of the last Generall Assemblie that an publict solem fast should be keepit heir as in all ye churches of this kingdom upone ye nixt Lords day after ye intematione thairof and upon ye Wedensday thairafter and the causes to be intemat (viz) for releife to all ye distrest protestant kirks, (2) for remedie of our crying sinnes of this land, speciallie for breach of or covenant made wt god (3) for ye Lord to blise ye affairs in Ingland and swell the gospell in puretie thair, to pray god for ye king to lead him in ye richt way, to pray god for ye affaires in Irland and for an good hervest.

(*Note.*—By this date the Civil War in England had broken out, and both King and Parliament were making endeavours to get the help of the Scotch Army. King Charles promised the Covenanters all they desired, but the majority distrusted him and voted to assist the Puritans. The negotiations had the effect for the time of dividing the Covenanters, and this is probably the "sinnes" referred to. This fast was a comprehensive one, and although of an international character it did not overlook local requirements.)

September 8, 1642.—The moderatour in name of ye presbeterie ordained yt search should be made through all the toune if any

persons wer heir yt had not yit subscrived ye Covenant and to report thair deligence everie sessione day.

(*Note.*—The Covenant here mentioned was the National Covenant, copies of which were being sent to every part of Scotland, so that the people might have an opportunity of signing it.)

8 *day of September* 1642.—The Baillie of Sa[t] Antones reportit yt his Court being set for taking order with sundry persons for ane ryot comited within or superioritie of St. Antone according to the Sessione ordinance ye last day he declared that James Roched Baillie of Leith deputed for ye Counsaill of Edinbroch cam and stoped yt court and comanded the Clark to ryse and moreover directed our Baillie of Sat. Antone to cum upe to ye Counsaill of Edinbroch This being hard the Session discharged him to obaye thair chairge; if they should do any farder the Sessione wald tak an other cours for remead in regaird to our richts under ye gryt seall for keeping of courtes at any tyme upon occasiones of Blood and Ryots quhatsumever or for conveining of our Vassells for any thing concerns our Rights.

September 15, 1642.—James Roched Ballie desyred ye sessione to cause Wm Ridoch our Baillie of St Antones ane elder of ye sessione to goe upe to the toun counsaile of Edenburgh and shew our richts for quhy we keepe courts upon Bloods or other Riotes. The sessione dischairged obedience thairinto because of our confirmed antient Richts under ye gryt seale.

(*Note.*—"Rights under the Great Seal" are privileges granted by Charter from the Crown, to which was appended an impression of the Great Seal of Scotland in red wax, attached by a red ribbon to the parchment of the document. We have here another phase of the old and long-continued dispute regarding courts and jurisdiction between the Capital and the Seaport. All charters had seals attached as a confirmation of their validity. The illustration below shows the one in use by the Kirk-Session in 1608, an interesting time, as it was the year previous to that in which the Scottish Parliament declared St Mary's the Parish Kirk of Leith. A charter was granted, 4th March 1608, by the Kirk Session of Leith in favour of James Hall, infefting him as heir of his father in an annual rent of a tenement of land in the Kirkgate belonging to them. To this they set their seal. This seal is a small round body, containing a curiously interesting representation of the Church, much as it is to-day, with a nave and two aisles, a great west window, evidences of the clerestory in the division of the roof, and flying buttresses on the south side. Beneath are five blocks, perhaps tombstones: and above three mullets or stars. The legend, or writing round the edge, is "S · COMMUNE · ECCLESIAE AC SESSIONIS · LETHAE." *i.e.* SIGILLUM, etc., the common seal of the Church and Session of Leith. Specimens of other seals used by the Session are no doubt still in existence. *Vide* Minute 10 July 1634 *supra*.)

Sepr. 29, 1642.—The sessione wt comone consent elected Alexr Broune Maltman to be Ballie of Sant antones quhairof we ar lauchfull superiors ratefied under the king's gryt seale and subscriptione.

Quhairupone James Rochhead and James Eles pnt Ballies of Leeth deputs for Edenburgh thair counsaill did protest that our Ballie of St Antons can have no power in Civill affairs wtin Leith and thairfor that he should not presume to exerce the samyn heirafter and thairupone did tak instruments in the clarks hands.

And also James Johnstone, Ballie of Restelrege and ane of our elders of our sessione did (in name of the session wt thair consent) protest that our Ballie of Sant Antons hes power *in civilibus* wtin our anne Jurisdiction of Sant Antons and yt he should exerce the samyn quhairupon the said James took instruments in the clarks hands.

The session appoynted Archbald Kinked an of our elders to goe to the toune counsell of Edr and declaire to ym that the Sessione ar verie willing to agree wt ym on this manner (viz) that both they and we conveine with twa advocats for ym and us and we both to produce or richts for our liberties and quha salbe found to have ye best richt sall mak use of samyn

concerning ye mater of St Antons quhairof we ar lauchfull superiors.

December 22, 1642.—The 22 December the Sessione ordaines the supplicatione given in be ye Maltmen of Leith to be insertt in yis buik of ye Sessione and to haive ane act of Sessione in all tyme coming for relieve of thair puir and Ministers Stipend.

26 *Jan.* 1643.—The Sessione all in one voice maid ane act that if any of them be absent out of ye Sessione upon a Sessione day wtout ane lawfull excuse sall pay 4s., and being sero (*i.e.* late) to pay 2s.

The sd day also ye elders and deacons were ordainit to visit yr quarters weeklie for all maner of sins and offences for curbbing yrof and report weeklie and in speciall ye first day of everie month.

9 *Febr.* 1643.—Intimaone was maid to Mr James Robertsone scool mr (*i.e.* master) that he wold attend the scoolle morning midday and evening as uthers maisters of scoolls of ye lyke doeth with certificaone and to have ane hundreth pounds onlie in stipend.

(*Note.*—This Mr Robertson was master of the Grammar School, which met in the Trinity House, and he had been giving trouble to the Session for some time, nor did he mend his ways after this warning, and so at last he was dismissed. The school met at 6 o'clock in the morning and continued till 6 o'clock at night. The master's salary was paid by the Session, and he was appointed by them *ad vitam aut culpam*. Most parishes at this time had only one school carried on in connection with the church, and taught by the minister. Leith had such a school, called the Music or Vulgar School, taught by the Session-Clerk, and meeting in King James Hospital, to which the churchyard no doubt served as a playground. But being a town of importance it also possessed a Grammar School, taught generally by students of divinity, who afterwards became ministers. In the former school poor children got free education. The better classes were compelled to send their children to the Grammar School, and pay the fees there under pain of the Session's censure.)

30 *March* 1643.—The qlk day (efter incalling upo god) the thesaurer was ordained to cause make ane silver coup against the comunione.

(*Note.*—The Session possess a very old silver cup, which is without any inscription, and is believed to be the cup here referred to.)

18*th Maij* 1643.—The said day, eftir incalling upo the nam of the Lord, Mr David Aldenstoune was admittit and receivit reader and sessioun clerk.

(*Note.*—With this entry we begin a Minute-Book, which we believe to be the most precious record in the possession of our church. It is a stout manuscript volume of 765 pages, well preserved in leather covers, and bearing on the back the title "Register of S. Leith Church, 1643 to 1660." This period of our history was crowded with interesting events, and the minutes reflect the strenuous efforts of the Covenanters, the shadow of death which passed over the parish at the time of the plague, and the calamities attending Cromwell's invasion, which left the congregation homeless for seven years. In these and other occurrences "Mr David," as he was called, bore his share, and was a model clerk. His weekly records are written in a hieroglyphic fashion, but in this duty also he was "painful and diligent," and his language is always expressive with at times a touch of quaint humour. The extracts from this volume will probably be more generally interesting than those we have hitherto given.)

The said day James Ferginsone, being warnit for selling of aill in his house in tyme of divine service upon ye Lord's day was callit, compearit, and was ordainit to pay a dollar, and was actit not to doe the lyke in tymes cumming, under the penaltie of 10 lib, and also to make his publick repentance.

Ordains everie elder and deacone to search yr quarters and tak up ye names of non communicants in yr severall quarters and present ym to ye Sessione this day 8 dayes.

1 *June* 1643.—Also the Smyths being desyred to compear befoir the Session to ye end ye Sessione might learn of them that they wald spair some of thair laigh seats for some gentilmen. The Deacon compearit in name of ye rest and said that he sould delyver ye kye of ye Eastmost ather to the gentillman who should have it or ells to Henry Christie Church Officer.

1 *June* 1643.—It was ordainit that yr should be a comittie upo twisday nixt to take order with ye skippers for ye meall (*i.e.* rent) of ye publick scoolle under yr almes house.

(*Note.*—The alms house was the Trinity house, then used as a hospital or poorhouse for the incorporation of sailors.)

15 *June* 1643.—The bailzies are desyred to cause mak intimaone throw ye towne with

sound of drume that no ventenars (*i.e.* vendors) of wyn aill or bear sell any drink efter 10 hours at even under ye pain of 10 lib.

22 *of June.*—Intimaon was maid throw ye towne be tuk of drum that no ventener of wyne aill bear should have yr seller dors open to sell drink efter 10 hours at even.

(*Note.*—In ten o'clock closing we have an illustration of history repeating itself, with this difference that our bailies in 1643 required the guidance of the Session. The keeping of taverns was a profession highly esteemed. At least in 1576 the General Assembly granted permission to ministers and session clerks to "tap aile, beer, or wine and to keep an open tavern.")

22 *June* 1643.—The Sessione haith ordainit that Mr David Aldinstoune reader should have the conveining house in ye hospital qlk appertains to ye maltmen traffeckers and crafters to be a scooll till he gaitte a house provydit for him.

29 *June* 1643.—The said day Joane Donaldsone gave in hir supplicatione to ye sessione for a rowme (*i.e.* room) in ye hospitall qlk appertains to ye Maltmen traffeckers and crafts qlk was granted.

Ordained all ye Deacons of ye crafts to be present yis day 8 days to give yr reasones qrfor they will not suffer Mr David Aldinstone reader to have ye conveining house to be a scooll for a tyme till he gait a house provydit.

(*Note.*—The buildings of King James Hospital in addition to accommodation for the poor seem to have included the music school, a session house, and a meeting house or "conveining" house for the three incorporations. The school at this time may have needed repairs hence the necessity for meeting in another part of the building.)

6 *Julie* 1643.—The said day Isobell Watson (Relicke of umql. Charles Watson Reader) hir petition was read and considered qrin she desirit a whole years stipend which was 300 merks as also 40 lbs for house maill (*i.e.* rent) qlk she was awand altho there was no moir dew to her but half years Stipend value 100 libs This being considered they ordained hir to get ye 100 libs presentlie and as for ye rest ye Session will consider yrof against this day aught dayes.

6 *Julie* 1643.—It was ordainit that James Jhonstone . . . should meat agane withe ye skippers to take order with yem for ye meall (*i.e.* rent) of ye gramer scool.

Ordains James Johnston . . . to be upo ye comittee to advyse if Mr David Aldinstoune should have ye conveining house to be a scool for a certain tyme or not.

Ordained Alex. broune balze of Sanct Antone to go with ye bailzies to Edr and demand ye Toune conferr concerning ye Impost of ye wyne which is dew to or churche of Leith.

13 *Julie* 1643.—Ordained ye thesaurer to cause big (*i.e.* build) up ye breaches in ye churchzard dike ye easiest way he can to hinder ye sheep and horse from incoming yrin till ye tym of ye Trubles be gone.

(*Note.*—The churchyard dyke had been made use of in fortifying the town.)

13 *Julie* 1643.—Ordaines the Theasurer to pay Isobel Watsone Relicke of Umql Charles Watson Reader This halfe yeirs Stipend, vizt—100 libs and for any further it is to be advysit be ye sessione and neighbours of ye toune.

Ordains to pay the skippers ye 110 mks for bypast scooll meall of ye gramer scooll and to tak a new Tack (*i.e.* lease) *de novo* for 19 yeir.

(*Note.*—The rent paid for the Grammar School was therefore £6, 2s. 3d.)

13 *Julie* 1643.—The said day James Crichton of Abercrombie compearit before ye Session and petitioned the Ministers and Elders for the Seat (which some tyme pertained to Umquhile Sir Jeremie Lindsay) for himself Spouse and Children, which was grantit during thair abode in this our toune and at thair removing to delyver the keye thereof back again to ye Sessione and for that effect ye said James hath subscrivet this our Act, referring ye a/c compositione of yis our said Act to ye discretion of ye said James Crichton to speak with our Theasurer Wm. Rudoch.

20 *Julie* 1643.—Ordains ane elder and a neighbour to attend upon yose who are mending ye church zard dickes (*i.e.* dykes) and then a deacon and a neighbour day about beginning at ye sands quarter.

27 *Julie* 1643.—The said day yr was no sessione becaus both ye ministers were imployit in some great businesse in Edr.

3 *Agust* 1643.—This said day it was reportit that yr were sundrie comone lounes (*i.e.* fellows) who hauntit upo ye shoir and uyr pairtes of the toune yrfor Francis Wilkie . . . was ordainit to try qr yei hauntit and to report.

Ordains Henry Baptie . . . to search yis nixt Saboth day throw ye towne efter noone to try who sells ather kaill carrots neips aples pruns or such lyk.

10 *Agust* 1643.—The compt of ye hospitall was given in to ye Sessione be francis Weilkie which compt was from ye first of Octo 1641 to ye i of Agust 1643.

The sume of ye charge was -	£473 08 02
The sume of ye discharge was	512 13 08
So rests to ye compter francis Wilkie - - -	£039 05 06

Ordained Alexr Broune bailzie of Sanct Antons to deliver ye ordinare dewtie yrof to ye Thesaurer Wm Rudoch upo his discharge yrof.

10 *Agust* 1643.—Ordained Henry Christie Church officer to keep ye church styll and all ye rest of ye gaits of ye church yard fast and sticked all tymes day and night except at preaching and prayers becaus ye people about and all uyrs makes a conteinuall passing yrthrow and abouse ye same.

(*Note.*—At this time there were few houses east of the church. The Links would extend to Restalrig and be used for feeding cattle and swine. In pre-Reformation times, the streets, now Quality Street, Charlotte Lane and Coatfield Lane (that part running north and south) formed one continuous road known as the "road to the altar-stane." This entered the churchyard by the mid-style. Here in the 17th century there was a collection of houses which went by the name of "the backside." To reach this district from the Kirkgate, the people often took a short cut through the churchyard.)

24 *Agust* 1643.—Thomas Zewing . . . being warnet for sailing in boats upo ye sabboth last in tyme of divine service compeared and being yr first fault were admonished and promisit not to doe ye lyke in tymes coming.

(*Note.*—The Sabbath was a day of silence and dulness, but whatever criticism may be made upon the church, she certainly used all her power in the endeavour to create a God-fearing people.)

7 *Sepr* 1643.—Ordained to borrow money for ye releise of . . . who are taken with ye Turks.

14 *Sepr* 1643.—Thomas Mitchell . . . were ordained to visit Lastelrig ye nixt Lords day. Ordains James Jhonstone bailzie of Lastelrig with ye elders yr and caldtoune (*i.e.* Calton) to take up a list of ye fencible persones both in Lastelrig and caldtoune ye morne efternoone.

(*Note.*—"Fencible persones" mean persons able to bear arms. The church was now impressing all such into the army of the Covenanters.)

1 *of Octr.* 1643.—The sd day being ye Lords day Intimatione was maid of ain proclamatione That all fensible persones within this our Kingdome betwixt 60 and 16 should be sufficientlie armed footine and horse men and repair to there randevous wtin yr severall shyres respective upo yr several dayes.

Also it was intimat that all betwixt sextie and sexteine within ye schrifdome of Edr. sall be upo Leith Linkes ye 2 of Octbr if advertesment be maid be fyre beacons or uyr wayes according to ye proclamatione and in caise of no advertesment that everie heritour be upo Leith Linkes upo Wedinsday nixt wt thair wholl men armed and furnishit.

(*Note.*—The civil war belongs to our national history. From these minutes we see that the troops of the Covenanters were drilled and marshalled on the Links. The headquarters of their army and navy were at Leith.)

8 *Octor.* 1643.—The sd day being ye Lords day Intimatione was maid befor noon that the Randevous of ye fowrth man sall be upo ye Linkes of Leith upo 24 houres warning after ye nixt advertisement and that no man be resset in ane uyr parioche without a lawfull testimoniall of ye minister and heritour of ye parioch from ye which he cometh under ye paine of 100 lib. and ye fleiar to be in danger of his lyf.

(*Note.*—Every man between the ages of 16 and 60 was forced to serve, and to hide or flee was punishable with death.)

19 *Octor.* 1643.—James Jhonstone bailzie of Rastelrig declares that ye matter depending betwixt James Fergusone and virgill Hunter was agitat befor him in his court at Rastelrig and that the witnessness has deponed that ye said virgil has called the said James Fergusone warlocke; contennues them till Setter day nixt at which tyme they are to be censoured befor my Lord Balmirrino at his court.

Oct. 19, 1643.—The said day it was mentionat in the sessioun that yr sould be a fast upo ye nixt Lord's day befoir ye subscriveing of ye covenant betwix ye three kingdoms, Scotland, Ingland and Ireland and all to sweir to ye said covenant. The tymes appoyntit for subscriveing of ye said covenant vizt:—For the toune of Leith, upo Twisday efter sermon, ye 24th; Thursday efter sermon ye 26th; and upo Fryday efter ye morning prayers ye 27 dayes of October 1643 — Rastelrig upo ye Lords day efter noon, ye 29th of Octo.

(*Note.*—The reference is to the Solemn League and Covenant, which is so famous an event in Scottish history.)

22 *of October* 1643.—The sd day being the Lords day yr was a solemne fast befor ye subscriving of the covenant of ye 3 Kingdoms Scot Land Ingland and Irland, the said covenant being read be ye minister Mr Ja. Sharp ye said day and all within ye church both pastors and people (at comand of ye minister) stood up upo yr feet and yr solemnlie with lifted up hands did sweir unto ye said covenant; and ye dyats prescreived for subscriveing yrof as is forsaid was intimat unto ye people.

(*Note.*—The service on this Lord's Day was one of the historic events connected with our Church. Of all our minutes this is the one we value most highly.)

26 *Octor.* 1643.—Upon ye 26 of Octor yr was no sessione becaus ye ministere could not be present.

9 *Novr.* 1643.—James forgisone and virgil hunter in Rastelrig compeared and becaus it was sufficientlie provin that ye said virgill had miscalled ye said James in calling him a witch and a warlocke Therfor ye said virgil was ordainit to sitt downe up hir knees in ye pns of ye sessione and crave gods mercie and acknowledg hir fault and to tak ye said James be ye hand and also to go befor ye court of rastelrig and yr in pns of ye bailzie yr do ye lyke.

The sessione thought it expedient according to ye ordinance of ye general assemblie that ye comunione be geven twise in the year viz in marche and in Agust.

16 *Nov.* 1643.—Ordains to mak intimaone ye nixt Lords day that the gentle men heritors within ye landward part of ye parioche be in Edr at yr meiting upo moonday nixt and to bring yr loan money with them.

Ordained to intimat yat yr be ane extraordinar collectione upon Sunday com 8 dayes in a basin for sundrie considerable distressit persons turned out of Irland.

The sessione all in ane voice agries that Mr David Aldinstoune reader should have for taking up of ye names stylls and trades of those who can subscrive ye Covenant of ye three kingdoms Scotland England Irland also ye names who can not subscrive and to insert yose who can not subscrive in ye end of ye said Covenant as also to wryt both who can and who can not subscrive in a book,—for his pains 20 mks.

23 *Novr.* 1643.—Mr David Adinstone reader presentit Alexr King to be ane helper to him for teaching of ye musick scooll and yrefter ye sessione ordainit that he be heir upo Twisday efter sermone and give a tryall befor such musicians as sall be appoyntit for yat effect.

(*Note.*—The Session-Clerk was also precentor, and taught the children psalm tunes, so that they might assist the singing in the church. The present metrical version of the psalms was not printed until 1647, and of course there were no paraphrases or hymns. But long before the date in question there existed psalms turned into metre, *e.g.* "Now Israel may say." These ancient psalms frequently had lines of irregular length and some of them are still preserved as alternative versions in our psalmody. It was the custom, probably dating from a time when few could read, for the precentor to read and sing a line alternately, and there are people in the congregation now who remember this being done when they were young.)

7 *December* 1643.—Robert Fergusone, Isobell Watsone and Alexr Pattone being all warnet for making ane comone passage threw ye church zard and louping ye dykes and breaking

them downe compeard and confessit ye gaid threw ye church yard but brack not downe the dyks qrfor yei actit yem sellffs yat if so be they be apprehendit louping ye said dyks or going throw yem all ye zeard being closit sall be holdin as guiltie in breaking of ye said dycks and be punishit accordinglie.

14 *December* 1643.—The compts of ye whole charge of Collections for the poor, penalties, annualrents, receavit be William Ruddoch Thesaurer to ye South Kirk of Leith and Restalrig being exactlie comptit from ye 15 of Novr. 1642 to this 1 of Decr 1643 years extend to Two thousand nyne hundredtd fyftie four pounds seventeen shillings 8d. and the Discharge given out to the said William Ruddoch conform to his compts being likwayes exactlie comptit extends to four thousand Pounds nintein shillings 8d. swa William Ruddoch compter will be super expended in ye soume of ane thousand fourtie sex pounds two shillings 5d. and comptit at ye South Kirk of Leith in presence of Mr James Sharpe Mr Alexander Gibsone Thom Moubray, James Johnstone, Alexr. Broune, James Dounie, Henrie Bell, James Patersone, James Carse, Thomas Wood, and Mr David Aldinstone Session Clerk Auditors and examinators of ye said compts the 1st day of December 1643.

28 *December* 1643.—Isobell Robertsone being called (for haveing four men playing at ye cards in hir house in tyme of divin service) compeared and was ordained to pay 12s and was admonishit no to doe the like.

9 *January* 1644.—Ordained a Comitte to be upo ye processe depending betwixt marione Aitkin and Margt Thomsone to try if yr were any kind of presumptio of witchcraft wherewith ye said marione persued ye said Margt and this comitte to visit ye processe upo fryday after ye morning prayers, ye names were . . .

(*Note.*—Numerous entries occur now in regard to witchcraft. Before condemning this painful superstitution, we should bear in mind that in our own day intelligent persons are to be found who believe that they can converse with the spirits of the departed. Witchcraft was a capital crime, because in the Bible it is said "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." Suspicion fell readily upon individuals, whose only ground for being attacked was some physical or mental peculiarity.)

Upon ye 28 *day of January* 1644.—Being the Lords day Intimation was made That all the heritors within ilk parish of ye Sheriffdom of Edr. should meit and sett doune ane roll of yr fewduties, tent duties, ministers Readers and Schoolmasters, their Stipends they pay and that betwixt and ye . . . day of Febr. next.

1 *Febr.* 1644.—The said 1 of Febr. the Session desyred that the Elders and Deacons of yr several quarters together with some of yr neighbours as they shall think fit, should go through thair quarters and collect yr Voluntarie contribution for ye Ministers, Reader, and Schoolmaster yr ordinarie Stipend as is modified be ye 18 Men modifiers thereof for that effect.

Upon ye 11 *Feby.* 1644.—Also intimation was made concerning ye collection of ye Voluntar Contribution for Ministers Reader and Schoolmaster yr Stipends that it be done franklie without grudging.

11 *Febr.* 1644.—Intemaone was maid concerning fugitives and runaways from yr cullers and armis of ye present expeditione going in Ingland for punishing of them.

(*Note.*—In some of these minutes the Session appear to be administering martial law.)

Moreover intimaone was maid that none should carry watter from ye wells to yr houses upon ye Lords day at no tym in that day but have it in upon ye Saturday befor.

15 *Febr.* 1644.—Intimaone was maid that ye wholl heritors in ye presbeterie of Edr and Dalkeith be at ye place of meiting upo ye 19 of Febr for setling of ane certane day for musterjng of yr fencible persones.

(*Note.*—The heritors or landowners were apparently expected to bring with them all their vassals and retainers as they did in feudal days.)

22 *February* 1644.—Those who keeps the keys of the Lofts aud laigh seats are ordained to be warnit against Saturday at ane efternoon and to be with them a Deacon of everie Calling and ye Ministers and some of ye Sessione to meet with them for taking order with them who keeps the kees and to tell them what they sall doe.

22 *Febr.* 1644.—The Session desyres the Collectors of ye Voluntarie Contributione should be diligent yrin and to report ye nixt Dyat.

Upon Satturday ye 24 *Febr.* 1644.—The two Ministers Mr James Sharpe and Mr Alexr. Gibsone mett in ye church with the Deacons of everie Calling and yer Servants who keeps the kees of yr seats and they were desyred be the said Ministers to caus yer men have a care of yr Seats and let no bairns play thairin, naither go out of the Church yr selffes as some haith done in tymes by past.

(*Note.*—It is plain that in olden times the same good order was not observed during service as is now the case. Bairns played and boys fought, and this minute shows that grown-up men walked in and out of the church while the minister preached.)

29 *Febr.* 1644.—Mr James Sharpe minister declared that Mr James Robertsone Scool mr (*i.e.* master) cam to him (becaus he was desyred to com to ye Sessione this day) and desyred him to tell ye Sessione if yei had any thing to represent unto him that it will please them to send some from yis table commissioners becaus he had no will to com in publick.

Florence Jamisone presentit ane charter of all his lands holdin be him of ye church of St Anthons. de novo but ye Sessione desyred a contenuance yrof.

7*th March* 1644.—Ordains to make intimatione upo ye nixt Lords day that if any persone haith any depositione to geive in against Margt Thomsone who is apprehended for a witch that yei come judicialie befor ye bailies and ministers in ye Tolboith and yr depone.

14 *March* 1644.—Ordains everie elder and deacon in yr several quarters to geive up ane certane number of honest men who should watch with them ye witches who for ye pnt are in prison.

(*Note.*—The Session appointed a special watch to frighten away the Evil One, in case he might appear and rescue the witches. It was not always easy to get men who would face a personal encounter with the Evil One himself, and they had to be well paid for the risks they ran. Oddly enough it was easier to have the watch kept by night than by day.)

Ordains to mak a sackcloth for Margt Thomsone ye witch.

Ordains to send for ye man in Musilbrough who tryes ye witches marks and Jhon Brand was ordained to ryde for him.

(*Note.*—Witches were believed to bear the Devil's marks on their bodies, and this man in Musselburgh had a reputation for discovering and identifying these. The usual trial was to search for blue or red marks or birthmarks, and to burn the spots with a hot iron or insert a pin or needle. If the victim did not feel the wound and shriek, or if blood did not flow, then there was no longer any doubt she was a witch. Suspected persons were also bled between the eyes, which was believed to make them powerless and to undo the evil they had done.)

24 *of March* 1644.—The sd day being ye Lords day Intimaone was maid that ane Jhon Ogilvie in ye north a papist was excomunicat qlk was ordainit be ye presbetrie.

Also that if any persons had any depositione of witchcraft aganst Margt Ramsay that they should come upon twisday nixt at 2 hours efter noone and yr depone befor ye bailzies ministers and some of ye sessiene.

25 *of March* 1644. — Ordained to make intimaone the nixt Lords day that the supper of or Lord will be celebrat upone Sonday com aught dayes ye 7 of Aprill for ye first day and upo ye 14 of Aprill for ye second day and the preparaone sermones to be upo the saturdayes ye 6 and 13 of Aprill 1644.

4 *Aprill* 1644.—The service the tyme of ye comunione was establishit as followeth viz— To cary ye coups . . . To cary ye stoups . . . for ye bread . . . To attend at the head of ye Tables for good order . . . To attend at ye pillars at ye out going at ye head of ye tables . . . To attend at ye west end of ye Tables qr the people entereth to ye Table those following viz . . . For collectione at ye church dore . . . at the wester styll . . . meid styll . . . at ye eister styll . . . To collect upo ye Satturday befor . . . utter styll . . .

(*Note.*—The blanks represent names. In preparation for the Communion the body of the church was cleared and tables set up. It is less than 40 years since this practice was abandoned. The Magistrates pew was then in the middle of the church and the pews before it were lifted out and tables placed, towards which the people crowded from behind. Hence the service was very prolonged and there was great need for keeping order.)

This forsaid 4 of Aprill 1644 Robert Murro receavit ane of ye kyes of charter chist qlk Wm. comrie had.

The session concludit that all those who are delatit be margt Ramsay of witchcraft should be aprehendit and put in prisone this day efter noone and be confronted with ye said Margt.

7 *Aprill* 1644.—The Session ordainit Mr James Jhonstone . . . to go to ye presbeterie ye nixt presbeterie day to cause the bretheren of ye presbeterie provyd for preachers to or church during ye absence of Mr Alexr Gibsone or minister.

18 *Aprill* 1644.—The sd day James Jhonstone . . . declarit that yei were at ye presbeterie and that ye presbeterie will provid preachers for or church during ye whole tyme of Mr Alexr his absence in the armie.

(*Note.*—Mr Alexander Gibson, the second minister, was chosen by the Covenanters to accompany their army going into England, and he was absent from South Leith from this date until the end of the year.)

18 *Aprill* 1644.—The Session ordainit that the Elders and Deacons who had collectit for ye Ministers Reader and Schoolmaster yr Stipends should delyver the saids collections to Wm. Ruddoch our Theasurer and that he give them Tickets of the receipt thereof.

18 *Aprill* 1644.—The wholle Session consents and assents that Mr Alexr. Gibson or Minister should have yearllie Twelfe hundredth merks, and that now pntlie he should receave from the Theasurer four hundred pounds and that for ye halfe years Stipend viz:—from Mertemes 16 fourtie three to Witsonday 16 fourtie four years.

2 *May* 1644.—Patrick Hutcheon gave in a petition to releise his wife suspect of witchcraft out of ye prisone—none anser grantit to it.

Ordains to mak intimaone that none use any kind of torturing aganst any of yose who are suspect of witchcraft and for ye present in prisone.

12 *May* 1644.—Being ye Lords day it was intimat be ye minister befor noon yat those persons were excomunicat viz James Erle of Montrois; Lodovick Erle of Crawford; Robert Erle of Nithsdail; James Vicont of Aboyn; James Lord Ogilvie; John Lord Heres.

(*Note.*—The nobles here mentioned were the leading Royalists in Scotland against whom the Covenanters were waging war. The sentence of excommunication was regarded as shutting the kingdom of heaven against offenders. Down to the Revolution it was attended with serious civil as well as spiritual penalties. Excommunicated persons might be denounced as rebels, and were liable to have their goods spoiled and themselves shot at sight.)

24 *May* 1644.—Ordaines two of everie Calling to meet upon Monday next to learn and try in ye Church qr any Seats can be had for Strangers and qr they may be best spared.

6 *June* 1644.—The said day (efter incalling upon ye Lord) The Session having caused wairn the Weivers about yr laigh Seats They and the said Weivers condescendit that they should build twa pewes in yr ylle, and that the Session would build other two just before ye Cordiners but the two qlk apperteines to ye Session to be ye foremost two of the four.

6 *June* 1644.—Whereas it was ordainit that Major Kerr should come befor ye pulpit to renounce all poperie and papistrie he did come upo ye 9 of June being ye Lord's day and efter or pastor Mr James Sharp uttered many grave and weightie exhortaones declaring unto him ye differences betwixt poprie and protestane religion the said Major Kerr publicklie in pns of ye wholl congregaone renunced poprie and became ane protestane and promised to maintain and defend ye protestane religione to ye uttermost of his power with upliftit hand.

27 *June* 1644.—Johne Moubray petitioned ye Sessione for ane seat qr it would please ye Sessione to grant him yrfor ye Session unanimouslie agreed That he should have ye North most halfe of ye long seat at ye East end of ye Church before ye Skippers laigh seats there; and promised to pay yearlie so muckle as he used to pay for ye yearlie contributions to ye Ministers Fund.

27 *June* 1644.—The Sessione all in ane voice did consent and agrie that Mr James Robertsone school Mr (*i.e*, master) should be removed out of ye scool and ane uyr be placed in his place becaus he never attends upo ye scoole.

Ordains to make intimatione of ane fast to be upon ye Lords day cum 8 dayes and upo ye Thursday immediatlie following.

4 *Julie* 1644.—The said day no sessione; upo ye 7 of Julie yr wais fasting and praying.

Intimaone was maid that al heritors should exped yr horsemen and foot to go to ye armie.

9 *Julie.*—The sessione was ordainit to be, but few conveinit yrfor litill thing was done.

14 *Julie.*—The sd day being ye Lords day it was a day of Thanksegeiving for ye great and glorious victorie the Lord gave to or armies in England against prince Robert besyd Yorke.

(*Note.*—This thanksgiving service was held because of the victory gained by Cromwell against Prince Rupert at Marston Moor on 2 July 1644.)

18 *Julie* 1644.—The said day (efter incalling upon ye Lord) Johne Hamilton of Boghall being residenter in this our Toune of Leith petitioned our Sessione for a Seat qlk the Sessione thocht reasonable and wold provyd for a Seat to him and his Ledie.

25 *of Julie* 1644.—The said day (efter incalling upon ye Lord) John Hamiltoune of Boghall petitioned ye Sessione ye Second tyme for a Seat ordained James Jonestone and John Moubray to speik with the Skippers upon Tuesday nixt in the Trinitie house for ane of their laigh seats.

25 *of Julie* 1644.—Ordaine to mak Intimaone ye nixt Lords day that no women sit in ye church with yr plaids about yr heads under ye paine of ye sensour of ye sessione.

(*Note.*—Long ago in Scotland it was reckoned a breach of manners to have the head uncovered in presence of superiors. At this date therefore men generally sat in church with their hats on, but it was otherwise with women. One reason against the plaids was that they were used as cloaks to sleeping. The beadle sometimes tapped the sleepers on the head with his wand, and in some churches he got money to buy tar to put upon such women, no doubt with instantaneous results.)

1 *Agust* 1644.—The said day (efter incalling upo ye Lord) Thomas Miller being warnit compeard and it being declairit be Mr Jas Sharp, Moderator, that he had suffered some idle speiches concerning the covenant and uyr things concerning ye guid cause he denyed that ever he uttered any such speaches of that kynd ye sessione continued him till farder trya. and probatione.

The said first of Agust 1644.—The wholle sessione and neighbours of yis toune being desyred to be pnt were solemnlie conveinit: Then Mr Jas. Sharpe or pastor and moderator declarit unto yem ye resone qrfor ye were so called was because of ye great losse of or grammer scool how ye youth were neglectit and losed yr tyme throw ye neglegence of Mr James Robertsone scool mr. who never attendit upo ye scoole. Therefore he proponit unto them whether or no it should be condescendit or no condescendit that ane uyr should be provydit to be scoolmr of or grammer scool They all in ane voce agreed and condescendit yt yr should be ane uyr scoolmr providit and the said Mr Jas. Robertsone to be removed pntlie.

Therefter ye said moderator named ane Mr Jon Andersone in govinne to be Scoolmr for whom he wold oblige himselffe for his qualificaone of learning lyfe and attendance upo ye scool.

Then ye whole sessione and neighbours condescendit that ye said Mr Johne Andersone should be schoolmr.

1 *August* 1644.—The Shoemakers ye said 1 of Agust 1644 petitioned our Sessione That seeing thair Wisdomes had agreed with ye Weivers That there should be four new pewes built in ye Weivers eyll qrof two should pertain to ye Sessione and two to ye said Weivers It wold lykwayes please your Wisdoms to let ym have yr formost pewe als farre in ye Weivers eyll before ther present pewes as yr boundar extend to: qlk petitione being hard The Sessione ordainit that the said bounds should be syghtit be ye Thesaurer and some others with ane wright and desyrit that the said Shoemakers and Weivers sould agree among ymselves yranent qrupon presentlie the said place was visited be some of the Session thesaurer Wm. Ruddoch and Andro Alexr. Wright and they reportit to ye Sessione that ye said Shoemakers and Weivers would agree.

4 *Agust* 1644.—Intimation was maid (being ye Lords day) that yr should be a

postour of warr throw out yis whole kingdome for defence of forrane (*i.e.*, foreign) invasione be Prince Rupert.

(*Note.*—"Postour" probably means proclamation which would be made from the pulpit and at the church door. Prince Rupert in England and Montrose in Scotland had gained some battles against the Covenanters.)

15 *Agust* 1644.—The Sessione hath condescendit that money should be borrowit for ye releise of Archbald Waker and Alexr Guidall and ye Sessione sall give band for ye same to releise them from among ye Turks in Argeir with yis provision that Andro Brysone merchand in Edr who releived them give his back band to reduce ye money in caise they com not to Christian shore as also if he bear ye risk of ye sea.

(*Note.*—It was not uncommon to take special collections for ransoming sailors captured by pirates, but in the case of these two men the Session were willing to borrow money for their ransom on this prudent condition, however, that the lender took the risks of the sea. In days when Scottish ships sailed from Leith to Portugal and the Levant with their cargoes of wool and dried salmon and herring, they were often pounced upon by pirates, who sold their crews into slavery in Algiers and Barbary. Some were ransomed and some escaped bearing on their bodies the marks of brutal usage. For such the church readily extended her charity in donations which revealed their poverty oftener than their generosity.)

5 *of Sept.* 1644.—The said day yr was no Sessione becaus yr was no Sermon for yr was to be a publick humiliatioune upo ye morne being fryday.

(*Note.*—This humiliation was thought necessary after the great defeat which Montrose inflicted on the Covenanters at Kilsyth.)

12 *of Sepr.* 1644.—Intimaon was maid that who so ever of my Lord Metland (*i.e.*, Maitland) his regement were come frome ye cullors should returne with all expeditione uyr wayes wold be takine with yem.

3 *Octor* 1644.—The said day Ihon Pearson and Ihon Jossie bailzies being to demit yr office of bailiarie in this town of Leith left to our poor the sowme of 100 mks.

Intimaone was maid that no servants of what qualitie soever yei bee shall remove from yr maisters this year viz. from Martemes 1644 to Martemas 1645 without consent of yr maisters askit and obteinit under ye paine of 50 lib.

10 *of Octr.* 1644.—Ordained to make publick intimaone ye next Lords day that if yr be any persone who haith any dittay of witchcraft against Lilias Barrie who for ye pnt is in prisone, that they come to ye tolbooth upo twesday befor ye bailzies and ministers and some of ye Sessione and geive in ye same.

17 *Octr.* 1644.—Intimaon was made for clothes to ye soldiers in ye north.

(*Note.*—The minutes show the determined efforts made by the Covenanters as a result of which they were soon to become victorious in the war and to defeat Montrose.)

17 *of October* 1644.—Also ye said 21 of October 1644 Intimation was maid that no servants in all tyme coming should make ony tumult or sture in ye church upo ye Lords day at ye morning prayers qn they bring yr maistresses chyres (*i.e.*, chairs) to ye Church under ye paine of censour.

(*Note.*—The minutes show that fixed seats in the church were becoming more numerous at this time. Besides these, servants brought in stools or creepies for ladies to sit on, and unseemly squabbles were frequent as they manœuvred to get favorite positions. These were not necessarily the places from which the minister could best be seen and heard, for ladies exchanged courtesies and gossiped with their neighbours in the church even in the saintly days of the persecution.)

14 *November* 1644.—The sd day Jon Aldinstone bailie declaired that he spake with my Lord Provost of Edr. concerning . . . who for ye pnt are deteenit captives among ye Turkes in Argier and were cum of guidly parents in yis or towne of South Leith to ye end ane warrand might be obteinit for collecting of moneys for yr releese.

Mr James Sharp or pastor declairit that he had wrytine to ye universitis of St. Androw and Glasgow to try for ane provene and qualifeed man to be scoolmr of or gramer scoole.

21 *November* 1644.—Continues ye dyvyding of ye new seats as yeit till farther and ordains ye honest men of Restalrig sit still in ye pew qrin thei sit for the present till it be farther advysit.

28 *Nov.* 1644.—James Georg and Marione Aikman supplicat our sessione to suffeir his wife yr moyr (*i.e.* mother) Lilias Barrie to com out of prisone who haith been incarcered yis sex and threttie weekes being suspict of witch craft and could not find out any evident presumptio qrupon ye sessione agreed yt shee should be let out upon sufficient cautione qlk ye bailies took upo yem to doe being requyrit for yat end.

5 *December* 1644.—Ordaines the two Deacons of ye Smythes Weivers to tak order for keeping of ye Lofts that no perturbatione be in ye backsyd of yr Lofts in tyme of divin service be bairns and yat yei admonish ye keepers of yr Lofts and Seats that yei suffer no bairns to make ane trouble yrin and therefore ordaines ye Smythes to big up ye wast division betwixt yem and ye Timbermens Loft that none be suffered to passe through yr.

James Crawfuird Maltman in Leith of his own free will offered to proveide two bells to be placed in or Steiple of ye Church and yt yei should be sufficient Bells provyded that ye Steiple be builded and perfectit for yat effect. Ordaines therefor to speik with Jon Mill Master of ye Masons and Jon Scott Mr of Works of ye Wrights, how ye said Steiple sall be contrivit and drawn up and qt may perfect ye same, for yei ordainit a Meeting to be with ye nixt Thursday.

(*Note.*—Bells were an important part of Church paraphernalia, when people had neither watches nor clocks to mark the flight of time. On Sundays the bell was rung three times for each service. The first bell was rung an hour or so in advance to warn people to get ready for Church. The second bell was rung when the reader began his service. This was a preliminary service for reading prayers and portions of Scripture, sometimes also the Commandments. Then the third bell rang, and the minister entered the Church to begin his service of extempore prayer and preaching.)

The Thesaurer William Ruddoche desyred ye Sessione to give him a discharge of his compts proceeding ye 29 of Nov. 1644 qlk day his compts was visitit and perfytit to which ye Session agreeit.

The Visitors of his compts ye said 29 of Novr. 1644 were as followeth viz:—Mr James Sharp Moderator and Mr Alexr. Gibson our pastors Johne Moubray of Cammbo Elder James Johnstone bailie of Restalrig Elder Wm. Black and James Seatone Skippers Elders Patrick Keir neighbour Alexr. Brown Bailie of St. antons Elder Robert Murro Elder.

Andro Archibald Neighbour.
Alexr. Cuthberstone Elder and
Mr David Aldinstone Session Clerke.

The particular Soums of the Compts are as followeth :—

Charge.	Lib.	Sh.	D.
First ye collectione of ye poor money at ye church door from 7 of Decr. 1643 to ye 29 of Novr. 1644 - - - -	2010	05	04
The soume of ye penalties extraordinare collections and out of ye Whyt box ye said tyme is	0617	12	00
The soume of ye contribution throw ye Toun for helping ye Ministers Reader and Scoolmr yr Stipends ye said tyme is -	0896	10	00
The soume of ye Feuduties and meals receavit ye said year of St. Antons is - - -	0590	07	04
And meikle mair resting yrof the soume of ye annuel rentes ye said is - - - -	0173	06	00
From ye Weivers to help to build yr laigh Seats - - -	0013	10	00
Summa is -	4301	10	08

Discharge.	Lb.	Sh.	D.
The soume of ye extraordin out giving with the soume yt restit to the Thesaurer at ye last compts which was 1046 lib 2 sh. 8d. is - - - -	1783	05	02
Ye weeklie ordinar to ye poor given out yis yeir - - -	0823	07	04
To ye Ministers Reader and Scoolmr yr Steipends and other pensioners yis year is -	1550	15	8
For sundrie work done to ye church in yis year- - -	0481	18	10
Summa -	4639	07	00

Rests to ye Compter our Thesaurer £0337 16 04

5 *Decr.* 1644.—Ordains to speak with our Reverend bretheren of ye presbeterie concerning ye captives in Argeir . . . all sailors concerning yr release.

(*Note.*—The Session showed great persistence in regard to these captives; *vide* Minute 15th August 1644. They took their case to the Town Council of Edinburgh, thence to the Presbytery, and finally to the General Assembly. In a later Minute we shall see that these sailors were ransomed and brought back to Leith.)

26 *Decr.* 1644.—Ordains to intimat ye nixt Lords day that the whole neighbours and sessione should remaine efter ye efternoone sermone to consider concerning a scool mr (*i.e.* master) to or gramer scooll.

26*th December* 1644.—Mr James Sharpe our Pastor and Moderator declared that he had spoken with the Provost and Toun Council of Edinburgh concerning ye impost of ye wyne and yat yei were willing that our Sessione should seek a compt yrof and receive it from the Bailies for ye repairing of Our Church Steiple and uyrs.

(*Note.*—The wine tax has been referred to above, and also the reluctance on the part of the Edinburgh Town Council to pay the same to the Session. Under their charter the Session were empowered to levy £4 Scots, or 6/8 sterling, on every tun of wine vended in Leith. A similar privilege had been enjoyed by the monks of St. Anthony. In 1677 the wine tax was let, and its collection ceased altogether about 1715. If the impost could be revived it would be highly productive to the present generation.)

12 *January* 1645.—The said day intimation was made that ye whole Sessione and neighbours should convene so after ye convenit and (efter in calling upon ye Lord) with consent of both Session and neighbours yr wer appoyntit 18 men to sitt upon a Committee for choysing of a Scoolmr to or gramer school qrof nyne Sessioners and nyne neighbours Vizt:—(A List of Sessioners and a List of neighbours).

16 *of Jan.* 1645.—Ye sessione nominat all in ane voice Mr Georg Phine to be ye Mr (*i.e.* Scoolmaster) ordains Mr David Aldinstone or reader to go yis day to Edr. to
Auditors to be heir ye morne be 10 hours for tryall of ye said Mr Georg and also ye said Mr Georg be heir at 7 hours to gait his lesson prescrivit to him be or pastors.

The bailies promised to take order and speake with ye carters that yei remove yr cairts affe ye publick hei (*i.e.* high) Street becaus in ye nicht tyme (being darke) sundrie people going throw ye street are hurt yrwith.

Also they promised to speeke with ye Drumer to cause him keep better order going throw with ye drum at four in ye morning and at seven hours at even.

(*Note.*—The drummer went through the town at four in the morning to waken the people, and at seven at night to sound the curfew.)

17 *of Jan.* 1645.—Mr George Phine gave in ane privat tryall *ex tempore* to be scoolmr befoir Mr John Sharpe professor of divinitie in ye colledg of Edr Mr Andro fairfoul minister of north Leith Mr James Sharpe Mr Alexr. Gibsone or pastors Doctor Ramsay and . . . sessioners and neighbours but becaus ye said Mr Georg gave not such satisfactione to ye forsaid auditors as they expectit it was condescendit that he sall have ane publicke tryal and ane tyme prescrivit to him to studie same.

The Act anent Deficients and Runaways ordaining yem with all officers and souldiers qtsoever to returne to yr cullers (*i.e.* colours) was intimate upo ye 2 of Feby. 1645.

6 *Febr.* 1645.—Ordains in all tymes coming that who soever shall be contractit and who are to make penny brydells sall consigne ather Ten pound or ells ane pand (*i.e.* pledge) worth ten pound that yr mariag dinner sall not exceed ye pryce of 12s. uyr wayes the 10 lib sall fall and sall come to ye use of the poor.

(*Note.*—It has been usual in all times to make merry at weddings, so that the contract might at any rate begin happily. But the Scottish clergy frowned on such festivities and an Elder was often present to stop any excess of gaiety. At the end of the marriage ceremony the bride walked round saluting all the guests, and she carried a dish into which each dropped a coin. Hence the phrase "penny weddings." If the prospects were good for dancing and drinking, a large number of uninvited guests would come and the collection be all the better. The money went to assist the bride in furnishing. Here the Session are seen restricting the price of the dinner so that the company should not eat or drink intemperately. It was also usual to have acts of session restricting the number of guests.)

13 *Febr.* 1645.—Mr Georg Phine gave in his second tryall to be scoolmr upon Twisday

last but gave not such satisfactione to ye auditors as was requysit for suche ane immenent place.

Neverthelesse the whole session (Mr Alexr. Gibson our pastor except) and neighbours in one voce concludit and unanimously condescendit that the said Mr George Phine should be stationed and placed scoolmr for ye space of ane yeare.

He sall have for yis years stepend 200 mks and if he sall contenue any longer nor a year he sall onlie have but ye somme of 200 mks and if he sall have under him an efficient able and qualified man to be doctor of ye gramer scool ye said docter sall have yearlie 100 merks.

(*Note.*—The appointment to "such an eminent place" as schoolmaster was in this instance treated as a public question. Mr Phin's character must have made up for the defects in his learning. Later on he became a minister.)

The qlk Lords day 2 March, 1645 efter ye efternoon Sermon ye Ministers conveinit a certain number of ye Sessione and neighbours and spake to them that yei wold be dilligent in collecting in ye rest of ye contribution for ye Ministers Reader and scoolmr yr Stipends.

2 *March* 1645.—It was ordainit yat ye act of Parliament concerning ye exceise should be read at ye church dore at ye kirk scailing.

Sussanna Young petitioned for 15 lib qlk was bestowit in meat and drink be hir upon Margt Broune ye witch ye tyme shee was in prisone qlk was grantit; never ye less it was dew to ye civil magistrate to have payit ye same.

Upon ye 4 *of March* 1645.—Being Tuesday our Pastor Mr James Sharp and Mr Alex Gibsone went to ye Trinitie house to ye Skippers, and spack to yem that it please yem to let ye Ladie Reiven (*i.e.* Ruthven) have the benefit of their formest laigh seat nixt ye eist syd of the Pulpit to sit into, qlk they grantit qrupon our Pastor willit Mr David Aldinstone our Reader to go to ye said Ladie and report yr diligence and requiest grantit So yrefter upon ye nixt Lords day ye said Lady was possessst in ye said Seat during ye Will of the Skippers and during ye tyme of her abod here.

20 *March* 1645.—It was ordainit that intimaone of ane fast should be maid ye nixt Lords day qlk will be universallie throw yis kingdome upon Wednesday yrefter.

3 *Aprill* 1645.—The poor of King James Hospital complanit upo ye maisters yrof namelie Francis Wilke Alexr Browne and Ro Murro becaus yei gat not sustenance to susteen yem, it being yrof demandit at Francis qt was ye reasons hairof he ansered becaus he could not gait ye rent yrof in from yem who are awand (*i.e.* owing) to ye said hospital.

(*Note.*—The number of paupers entertained in the Hospital was probably ten or twelve. Each of them had an apartment with fire, candle, and a weekly pension. The name "Hospital of St. Anthony" occurs in a Minute as late as 1793.)

Desyrs Jon Aldinstone to furnishe (*i.e.* give provisions to) ye woman at ye yarde heads who is steekit up for feare of ye plagve.

Desyrs Jon Kellas to furnish James Thomsone and Jon Dinlop till this day 8 dayes being inclosit for feare of ye plague.

(*Note.*—These are the first references to the plague.)

3 *April* 1645.—The last Session Robert Lindsay Gentlemen petitioned for his seat againe qrin Alex. Hay his wife sits at which tyme it was advysit yat Mr David should speak with ye said Alexr. and report his answer qlk the said Mr David did at large with sundrie circumstances And ye wholle tenor of his anser was he wold not quyt that seat seeing it was grantit to him be ye Sessione and he saw no reason qrfor seeing he was an heritor in ye toune of Leith, and he perswaded him selffe ye Sessione would not deal so undiscreitlie with him for to dispossess his wife and daughter of yr seat qrupon it was ordainit that Francis Wilkie Wm. Ruddoch and John Gray shovld go and visit ye Kirk qr ye said Robert Lindsay and his Wyfe may convenientlie have a Seat.

10 *April* 1645.—Ordains to mak intimation that none who wanted Testimonialls presum to communicat at yis tym.

(*Note.*—Every person removing from one parish to another required a Testimonial from the Session showing whether they were married or single, free from scandal, &c. Without a Testimonial no stranger could enjoy the privileges of the Church. Disjunction Certificates which are now granted do not deal with the private affairs of church members.)

Ye sessione accorded yat yose who are inclosed (for fear of ye plague) in Robert

Macconie his close should be furnished with meat and drink upo ye Sessiones expenses till yei be freed.

1 *May* 1645.—It was ordainit yat intimaone should be maid from ye pulpit yat yei who are elders and deacons should frequent and keep ye session better in tymes coming nor they have done heirtofore seing yat many of them oft times are absent.

The Thesaurer Wm Ruddoche presentit yis day two obligationes the first band contains ane thousand marks . . .

The second band conteins ane thowsand pounds qrof William Mr of fraser is principall and my Lord Balmerenoche cautioner payable at martemas.

15 *May* 1645.—Robert Traill complained upo Wm Herdman and Robert Young for scorning deriding and making a fooll of him calling him papist and dyver (*i.e.*, bankrupt)—his matter is referd to ye bailies.

Ordains to warn Robert Thomson and Robert Cochrin for travelling about Bonytone millns in tym of divyne service.

19 *May* 1645.—Upon the 19 of May 1645 the pest brak out in our new hospital called King James his hospital in a woman's scool yr qrupon sundrie houses were closit up.

Also our reader Mr David Aldinstone, was desyred to keip his house becaus he prayed for ane Margt Gilmuir, who was suspect to have died of the pest.

So ye said Mr David was inclosit from ye 16 of May 1645 to 15 of June ye said year during the qlk tyme he could not gait certaine notice what was done in ye sessione qrfor he left yis blanke following.

(*Note.*—Here follow six blank pages. It is unfortunate that we have no details of Session meetings when the plague began to spread. When Mr Aldinstone, the Session Clerk, was allowed out the plague was raging everywhere, and his next minutes deal almost wholly with this subject. The details they give are not contained in any published narrative.

In olden times when sanitary methods were neither known nor practised an outbreak of plague was nothing uncommon, and such outbreaks were frequent in Edinburgh and Leith, and in most seaport towns. The plague of 1645 was one of the most virulent of which there is record, and the horror of the situation was aggravated by famine. According to a recent author the plague was bubonic, and was characterised by buboes or swellings in the neck, armpits, or groins. When the fever was prevalent death often occurred before any such symptoms were developed. Another authority writes to the following effect:—Little doubt is entertained that the exanthematous disease, called long ago the Pest, and now the Plague, was the consequence of a miasma arising from crowded and filthy living acting on bodies predisposed by deficient aliment and other causes, and that at a certain stage it assumed a contagious character. The malady generally, though not invariably, followed dearth and famine. This was especially true of the plague of 1645, which was brought into Scotland from Newcastle, after the siege of that city by the Covenanting army under Leslie. Here it met a field highly cultivated for its diffusion. There had been dearth the preceding year from deficient harvest, and since then, what with the drawing away of men for the army, the grievance of a heavy excise to support it, the extreme anxiety and distress of mind occasioned by the civil war, assisted doubtless by the generally depressing effect of incessant preachings, prayings, fastings, and thanksgivings, by which the whole sunshine of life was as it were squeezed out of the community, these vital powers which resist and beat off disease must have been reduced to a point much below the average. It is not surprising, therefore, that the plague took deadly hold of the country and rapidly spread from Edinburgh to Borrowstounness, Kelso, Perth, and other towns, all of which were grievously afflicted by it during the next year.

It will be seen that the Session adopted very enlightened measures to check the development of the disease "quhilk be the grace of God and gud governans may be stanchit.")

15 *June* 1645.—The qlk day being ye Lords Day ye Sessione and neighbours being conveinit (efter incalling upo ye Lord) It was ordainit that . . . should attaind ye Baillies yis weeke till yis day 8 dayes becaus of ye pnt visitaone of ye plague of pestilence.

(*Note.*—The blanks represent names of members of Session. The Bailies in the first instance had the duty of taking such steps as might keep the plague from spreading.)

It was ordainit yat . . . should visit ye persones in ye Ludges in ye Easter Links morning and evening and to furnishe yem qr yei stand in need of with neidfull food.

Also . . . to visit ye waster links for ye lyke.

(*Note.*—The Easter Links probably mean Seafield; the Wester Links would be the Links adjacent to the churchyard.)

Ordains . . . to give ye cleansers sufficient maintinance till Twisday nixt yat ye bailies prescrive unto yem qt should be yr ordinarie entertainment everie day during ye tym yei be imployed for clensing.

Desyrs . . . to speeke with . . . (carters) and to agree with yem to carry furth ye foul gear out of ye infected houses to ye Links and qt yei will have for everie cartfull yrof.

Ordains everie Elder and deacone in yr several quarters to attend ye said . . . (carters) qn yei carie furthe ye said foul gear.

Desyrs . . . to meit and consider upon ye most convenient way how ane contributione may be collected for ye suplie of ye indigent people who are infected.

Ordains everie several dayes collectione at ye church doore yt it may be distrubitit to ye poor.

(*Note.*—From these minutes we can gather the measures that were taken. Cases of sickness were reported by the members of Session, who attended the Bailies. Later on this duty was taken up by quarter-masters, as they were named, *i.e.* persons appointed to visit the different quarters of the town. Persons falling ill were shut up in their houses from which they were ordered to hang a white cloth to show that they were infected, and as soon as accommodation could be found for them they were removed to the "Ludges" or wooden huts put up in the Links. Their foul gear (*i.e.*, furniture, &c.) was also taken to the Links, and their houses cleansed and shut up.)

17 *June* 1645.—The qlk day being twisday (efter incalling upo ye Lord) it was ordainit yat everie Elder and deacone in yr several quarters should geive in ane Roll of honest men to help yem in yis pnt visitaone and yat yei meit with ye bailies ye morrow in ye Tolbuith.

The Bailies ordainit . . . to bestowe upo ye cleansers everie day 48 shillings worth of meit and drink for yr ordinarie intertainment and yat it be lookit to yat yei gat not over muche strong drinke.

Ordains to delyver ye kye of everie house to ye bailies efter yei be cleansed.

Sustain Violet Hare (who for ye present is in ye Links infected) with her umquhile sisters money.

Ordains to visit a place in ye block house qr it will be most fitting for burying ye corpses of yose persones who died of ye pest.

(*Note.*—In two days it was found that the help of the Session was not sufficient for the emergency, and the Bailies hurriedly called this meeting in the Tolbooth to make up a roll of helpers. This minute gives the first reference to the burial of the victims. The Blockhouse of St. Anthony was situated at the head of the Kirkgate, covering the ground between the present St. Anthony Street and Great Junction Street, probably covering the latter street also. This was the principal fortress of Leith in the wars with the Lords of the Congregation when, as our Chronicle relates, the English guns upon the Giant's Brae "beganne to shoote at St. Anthony's steeple . . . but within a few houris efter the said steeple was broken and shott downe." At the end of the war the blockhouse was, by treaty, demolished to the ground. When the foundations were being dug for the houses at the corner of Great Junction Street, skeletons were found and also cannon balls, of which latter three have recently been presented to the Session. These are most interesting relics.)

17 *June* 1645.—Recomends to ye Baillies to modefie ye craftsmens wages who work ye Ludges and uyr publick works about yis towne in yis visitaone.

Recomends to ye Baillies to visit ye Slaiders box and ye worke mens and to cause have a cair yrof and to cause distribut of ye same to ye poor indigent people of yr owne callings now in ye tyme of yis visitaone.

(*Note.*—The number of Ludges or wooden huts went on increasing with the spread of the infection. The town as a whole began to be enveloped as the infected houses were closed up and the occupants transferred to the Links to the hastily constructed hospitals there. The Slaiders were the carters, whose incorporation still exists. Each incorporation had a box in which were kept the contributions destined for the use of their own poor.)

18 *June* 1645.—The qlk day ye bailies Patrick Baxter and Jon Aldinsone conveinit befor ym ye sessione and neighbours in ye Tolbuith at three efternoone and being solemnilie conveinit proceidit as followeth.

They ordainit yat a Comittee should be choysin to consider elect and choyse so many quarter masters as sall be thought expedient to attend weeklie both within ye towne and in ye Links both for good order and furnishing of ym in things neidful in yis vititaone.

Those who were choysine to be upo ye committee were as followeth :—sands qr . . . (three names) hill qr . . . (three names) Tolboith qr . . . (three names) Lees qr . . . (four names).

The Baillies desyred yir persones to meit ye morne in ye Tolboith betwixt 5 and 6 in ye morning to consider upon a fair and most convenient way to establishe qrmrs both in ye Towne and Linkes for visiting yr severall qrters for ye spaice of fyve weekes and to report yr dilligence ye morne efter sermone.

19 *June* 1645.—The qlk day at ye dyat forsaid conveinit in ye Tolbuith and did chuise James Johnsone preses and yrefter yei did choyse and nominat so many honest men to visit and furnishe ye several quarters both in ye toune and linkes for ye space of 5 weekes.

(*Note.*—The list of quartermasters is here given. In the sands quarter four were appointed for each of the five weeks, being 20 in all. A like number were appointed for the hill quarter and the Tolbooth quarter, and a double number for the Lees quarter, which included St. Anthonys and Yardheads, and was the most populous district.)

19 *of June efter sermone.*—The proceedings forsaid be yis comittee was reportit to ye sessione and was approven.

It was ordainit yat ye sledders and workmen who are indigent in yis visitatone should be sustainit by yr owne boxes.

The rest of ye Towne who are poor to be provydit be a weeklie contributione and yat ye said contributione be collectit everie moonday to help ym in yis visitaone.

Ordains yrfor everie elder and deacone in yr severall quarters to go throw yr quarters to collect and to marke what everie one geiveth and who no geives and who are absent out of ye Towne.

Matthew Mitchell promised to lend the Loane of his caldrone to ye Linkes for cleansing during ye tyme of ye cleansing but first ye foul cleansers to begin at his house to cleanse it.

Ordains also to take out umqll James Mathie his caldron out of his house and send it to ye Links for cleansing.

(*Note.*—Caldrons, *i.e.*, pots, boilers, &c., were set up for boiling infected clothing, &c.)

Desyre . . . to meit upo Twisday nixt in a Comittee for laying ane stent (*i.e.*, tax) upon yose who are fled out of yis toune for ye poore.

Ordains to gait ye kyes of Peter Cochrins house in ye Links to make ane magazine house yrof to lay in beer, aill, bread and uyr necessars yrin for ye use of ye people in ye Links.

(*Note.*—"Magazine house" is store-house. This minute speaks for itself. At the same time the Kirk Session of Newbattle (Robert Leighton, minister) following the Scriptural precedent spent considerable sums on "bread and wine" for those sick of the plague.)

Ordains to cleanse Allan given his house with all expeditione becaus it is thought yat yr are moneyes in his house qlk may be gottin for ye poore.

22 *June* 1645.—Ordains yat all ye moneyes that is gotten in any house qn it is in cleansing be delyvred to ye baillies efter it is cleansed and yei will give it to our thesaurer for ye use of ye poor.

Ordains to give to everie person in ye Links in ye Ludges and qo are inclosed within ye towne three halfe loafes in ye day and ane pint of aill (*i.e.*, ale) ye rest is referd to ye discretione of ye quarter masters.

(*Note.*—A Scotch pint was equal to two quarts, so that the allowance of ale seems more generous than that of bread. At this date tea was not known and every one drank ale. The maltmen's incorporation was a large and prosperous one.)

Recomended to ye Baillies to cause make publick intimaone throw ye toune ye morne yat all and everie ane remove ye middin of mucke and dead swyne aff ye streats.

(*Note.*—If any one were walking through the town at this time his senses of sight and smell would not be pleasantly greeted. The streets were diversified with middens, reared to the height of mounds, from the accumulated refuse of the houses. Each house had its midden, which was seldom cleared away in spite of Acts and ordinances. Besides these, there would be a strong odour from the numerous pig-sties which abutted on the fronts of the houses. The sties were little more than headquarters for the swine, which strolled about the streets, overturned the heaps of refuse and got in the way of the people. Down the length of the streets ran open gutters sufficiently broad and deep. There would be no paving to speak of, but, on the contrary, occasional ruts and hollows either the result of the elements or the deliberate

work of men. It was this state of matters which caused the plague to spread and made the cleansing of the town a necessary step in checking it.)

22 *June* 1645.—Alexr Hay tooke upon him to cause put all ye Ludges in ye Linkes in order efter yei be cleansed and to imploy men to howe whinnes (*i.e.*, cut whins) and to gait uyr necesaries for cleansing qlk most be done upo ye comone charges qrfor he was exeimed frome all uyr burding in ye towne.

(*Note.*—Upon a death occurring in a Ludge, it was apparently cleansed before being occupied again. The greater part of the Links was then covered with whins. There are frequent references to whins, heather, and straw, as necessaries for cleansing, and the explanation is that these were burnt in the houses as disinfectants. The "guids" were "purgeit and clengeit be fyre and water." The houses were "singit and fyrit with hether.")

The Baillies reported that Peter Cochrins wife will remove out of hir house upo Monday and yrefter ye house most be cleansed to be a magisine house (*i.e.*, store house.)

24 *June* 1645. — George Neisbit was appoyntit mr and overseer of ye magisine house in ye Links to keep and compt qt he receaves and qt he geveth out.

(*Note.*—Almost every minute records some new appointment, the inference being that the holders successively became victims to the plague.)

Ordains yat qn ever yr be any house to be cleansed yat first of all yr be watter standing besyd yem in punsheens for fear of fyr to sloken ye same.

(*Note.*—The risk of fire was serious. This the Kirk Session knew because of a conflagration which had shortly before occurred at Kelso, and which is thus referred to in Sir Thomas Hope's Diary. "April 1, 1645. — This day Kelso, with the haill houses burnt by fire caused by a clenging of ane of the houses thereof whilk was infected with the Plague.")

26 *of June* 1645.—James Seatone haith promised to cause saw dealls and tak ym to ye Links to James Gray to mak dead kysts yrof.

Recomended to or pastor to speake ye Ladie Pilrig for hether.

Our magistrates declared yei wold divyde ye foull cleansers qn ye cauldrons are sett.

Andro Steinsone was agreed with to mak ye graves for ye qlke yr was promised him 16s in ye day and yearlie 10 lib. to pay his house meall (*i.e.*, rent) during his lyftyme.

(*Note.*—Until this date we may infer that the dead were interred in "kists" or coffins; also that interments now began to be made in the Links. The Laird of Pilrig (Gilbert Kirkwood), died this year, probably of the plague. His initials and those of the "Ladie Pilrig," here mentioned (Margaret Foulis, of Colinton), may still be seen at Pilrig house. *Vide* minute 30 August 1638.)

26 *June* 1645.—Ordains ye qrmasters both within ye Towne and in ye Linkes to geive in ane compt of ye number and names in yr severall quarters who died yrin weeklie.

Ordaines to mak intimaone for cleansers.

26 *June* 1645.—It was thought expedient yt yr should be ane magasin house maid of dealls and not Cochrins house.

Ord. to visit a comodious place in ye Linkes from ye Ludges a great way to build a magisine house.

That no wright presume to make any Ludge in ye Links in all tymes coming till Alexr Hay be with him and designe ye place qr yei sould be builded.

(*Note.*—A regular town seems to have been put together in the Links, with quarters to correspond to the quarters of the parish.)

29 *June* 1645.—The qlk day the bailies promised to spake my Lord Provost of Edr. concerning ye absents out of yis toune.

Our pastor Mr James Sharp reportit yat ye Ladie Pilrig will cause send in hether. James Campbell is appoynted to receave ye hether and cause stake it in James Jhonstones yard.

Desyrs Mr David Aldinstone or reader to ryd to Borrowstonnesse for two cleansers.

1 *Julie* 1645.—Mr David Aldinstone our reader reportit yat he could not have the two cleansers out of Borrostonnes becaus yei were imployed in yr owne parioche.

(*Note.*—The plague was rampant in Edinburgh as in Leith, and reached to Bo'ness. Wilson, in his Memorials of Edinburgh, writes, "Gloom and terror pervaded the streets of the capital. It was the terrible year 1645—the last visitation of the pestilence—when, as tradition tells us, grass grew thickly about the Cross, as crowded a centre of thoroughfare as Europe could boast of." In Edinburgh the sick were ludged in the King's Park and the Burghmuir, and buried where they died; not in the churchyards, lest the infection might burst forth anew if ever the graves

were re-opened. The Kirk Session of the Canongate at the same date "ordained the dead to be buried in the Park, except they mortified somewhat *ad pios usus*," *i.e.*, left the Kirk Session money for parochial purposes.)

The elders and deacones gave in a list of ye names of yose persons in yr several qrters were not able to maintaine yem sellffs in yis pnt visitaone yt order might be takine for yr maintenance.

It was recomendit to . . . to try who were able to pay for yr kists (*i.e.*, coffins) and they fand ye number of 42 persones who were not able to pay for yr owne kists and ye pryse of all yr kysts cam to 76 lib 18s. qlk should be payit be ye comone purse.

1 *Julie* 1645.—The qlk day Mr Andro Fairfoul minister in North Leith compeired and desyred yat ye 3 part of ye sladers (*i.e.*, carters) box sould com for ye use of ye poor of yat calling in yr parioche and the two pairts to ye use of ye poor of yat calling in or parioche according to old use and custome; to ye qlk it was ansrit yt or magistrat should think upo ye propositione.

(*Note.*—This matter was referred to "my Lord Provost of Edr. and Counsell," whose will was that the sladers should maintain themselves and not be chargeable to the Town so long as they had any silver in their box.)

Recomends to Ion Aldinstone bailie and Alexr Hay to provyd for ane new burial place for ye deid in ye Linkes; also to furnishe Jas Dobie grave maker in meat and drinks for his owne payment.

(*Note.*—The remains of victims have been found in various parts of the Links, more especially at the south-west corner.)

3 *Julie* 1645.—The bailies of ye Cannongait and comissioners frome ye counsell of Edr. declared yat ye counsell had inhibit ym to suffer any in yis toune of Leith to come throwe ye cannongait to Edr. during ye tyme of yis visitaone.

Andro Archibald baxter tooke upo him to bake bread to all within ye toune and linkes.

Recomend to ye Bs. to try for hether for . cleansing.

4 *Julie.*—The qlk day . . . declared yat yei had agreed wt Ro. Wilkie to serve under Georg Nisbit in ye magasine house, and to have weeklie 3 lib; also yat yei had choysine David Stoup constant on-waiter upo ye foul cleansers, and to have weeklie 3 lib 6s. 8d.

6 *Julie* 1645.—Ordains Georg Aldinstone to mak all ye dead kists (*i.e.*, coffins) within ye toune with so many partners as he sall think expedient he having timber and ye naills furnishit to him.

The pryse of making of everie meikle kist 6s. 8d. The pryce of making of everie little kist 4s.

The pryce for making of any Ludge of two deal length 1 lib 5s. The pryce for making of any Ludge of ane deall length 13s. 4d. The pryce for making of ane hutt 6s. 8d.

6 *Julie* 1645.—Ion Moubray . . . are chosine to be upo ye comittie ye morne at seven hours upo ye new kye (*i.e.*, quay) to thinke and consider upon yose things—

1. To try qr ye kiln may be builded.
2. To try qr ye caldrone may be sett.
3. To agree wt Rot Alexr to be overseer in ye Linkes seing Rot Young will not imbrace it.
4. To agree upon a competent pryce for making of ye dead kysts (*i.e.*, coffins) and building of ye Ludges.

(*Note.*—Why the meeting was held on the quay does not appear, unless it was the only place in the town free of infection. Articles of clothing, &c., were boiled in cauldrons to destroy the plague germs. As for other infected articles they were put into kilns and subjected to the heat and smoke of burning heather or whins.)

8 *Julie* 1645.—Ordains to provyd ane horse for the overseer to ryd throw ye Links among ye people.

Andro Alexr. will provyd a Ludg for archbald Stewart for whom Ro. Maconell receavit ye sowme of nyne score and twelfe pounds to sustaine him ye tyme he is alive and efter his death to geive in ye rest to ye use of ye poor.

Ordains ye cleansers to begine at ye windmilln port to cleanse and to go orderlie throwe ye kirke gait and so forth to goe throw ye toune orderlie without intermissione of any house and yat it be done with all expeditione becaus of ye great infectione.

(*Note.*—The windmill port was an entrance from the Links to the "backside" of the town. The whole town was now plague-stricken.)

Ro. Alexr. is ordainit to cause ye foul cleansers com out of ye Links to carrye out ye dead corpsis out of ye toune deulie at all tymes qn occasione serveth seing some lyeth long unburied.

Ordains to big ye kyll (*i.e.*, build the kiln) at ye east end of ye Links besyd ye caldrons.

8 *Julie* 1645.—James Johnston undertakes to ye receaving and out giving of ye hether, keeping a compt yrof to ym who are able to pay for it, and who no, for cleansing.

Alexr Hay declares he cannot gait up ane list of ye names and ludges in ye Linkes becaus none will go with him.

Ordains none to gait dead kysts (*i.e.*, coffins) but those who are able to pay for ym.

Recommends to ye Bailies to convocat all ye brewars and to cause ym brew aill and beer and to put a pryce yron.

(*Note.*—When the bones of the unfortunate victims are dug up they are often found to be swathed in blankets, coarse Scotch blankets with blue borders. Where "kists" could not be paid for, the dead were wrapped in their blankets and buried at once. This destroyed one source of infection.)

10 *Julie* 1645.—Mr James Sharp or pastor reports yat ye Ladie Arnot will have for hir wheat strea (*i.e.*, straw) 13s. 4d.

(*Note.*—Lady Arnot was daughter-in-law to Sir John Arnot of Birswick, Provost of Edinburgh, 1587-89. Sir John's daughter was married to Nisbet of Craigentinnie, who "sat" in South Leith Church.)

Mr Alexr Gibson is deseired to speak her to use dilligence to further ye strea for cleansing.

Ordains to lay it in dobie's yard besyd ye hether.

10 *Julie* 1645.—Recomended to ye Bailies to wryt to Sir Wm. Dick to try if he will let his brewarie brew aill for ye publicke heir.

(*Note.*—This was Sir Wm. Dick of Grange House referred to in the "Heart of Midlothian" as the Scottish millionaire. He was ruined by Cromwell. His house and business premises still stand in the Advocate's Close. The Dick Lauder family is well known locally.)

12 *Julie* 1645.—Alexr. Hay declares yat he haith devydit ye Ludges in ye Links in three squadrons to ye end ye people yrin may be orderlie served in meat and drinke.

Wm. Forrester was takine sworne and admittit to have ane cair of ye out carying of ye foul gear and wryt up everie particular and to qm it doeth appertaine and to put it in Cochrin's house till it be cleansit.

Alexr. Hay agreed with Wm. Strachane for carying out of ye dead corpsis out of ye toune upo his slaid (*i.e.*, sledge) and should have weeklie 8 merks.

Recomended to ye bailies and . . . to consider upo ye soumes of money yat are left be sundrie defuncts yat it may be takin hold off and borrowed for ye pnt necessitie and use of ye publick.

Intreats ye Bailies to speeke ye counsell of Edr. yat wee may have our impost of ye wine and yat it may be imployed in yis pnt visitaone.

Ordains to provyd two cairts for out carying of ye filth and mucke out of ye toune and taking to ye full sea yat it may be washin away.

17 *Julie* 1645.—Ordained to provyd some wemen to help to fill ye cairts.

(*Note.*—The supply of available men was now coming to an end, and women were impressed into the service, preferably those who were cured of the plague, and on that account not so liable to take infection. Women criminals were also made use of in this way.)

Recomends to ye baillies to convocat ye qrter masters yis weeke and to prescrive unto ym yr orders.

Mungo Laive gave to Jon Kello qn he gaid out of yis toune to geive to ye poor 20 lib.

17 *Julie* 1645.—Alexr Hay gave in a paper book of paper wrytin on both sydes qrin his great pains and dilligence is showne yt he haith done in ye Linkes in divyding ye Ludges, who buildit ym, to qm yei appertaine, how many people were in everie Ludge.

Desyrs Andro Alexr to cause dresse up ane muck cairt.

20 *Julie* 1645.—Ordains Rot Alexr as he goeth along ye Ludges to have a care to see who are provydit in meat and drinke and who are not provydit and to report.

Georg Portews to go throw ye towne to try also who are provydit and who no in meat and drinke and report lykways.

It was condescendit upo yat James Seatone Thesaurer sould go to Musilbrough and speek with ye baillies yr yat yei cause provyd drinke for ye use of ye publick heir in yis pnt visitaone ; also to buy some dealls (*i.e.*, wood).

(*Note.*—The minutes now begin to reflect the "lamentable famine" which accompanied the plague.)

The Bailies promised to visit ye several quarters in ye toune and to liberat yose who haith been long inclosit.

James Beg to bring in four horse weel greathed (*i.e.*, harnessed) for leading out of ye muck and filth out of ye toune to a full sea.

To begin at ye sands quarter to clean till ye muck be takin out ye church gait (*i.e.*, Kirkgate).

22 *Julie* 1645.—The Bailies gave directione to Francis Wilkie to go to ye Timber Busse and take dealls (*i.e.*, wood) affe any stacke yr to whomsoever yei appertain to ye use of ye publicke in yis pnt visitaone and mak note yrof how many he takes affe and to qm, yat ye merchants yrof gait no wrong.

(*Note.*—Timber Bush is a form of Timber Bourse. The spelling in this minute is interesting, as also the reference to the wood merchants.)

22 *Julie* 1645.—The bailies declares yat James Craufurd will send out bear (*i.e.*, beer) ye nixt week to ye magazine house for 16d. ye pynt.

The bailies will cause Isobell Robertsone brew aill for ye use of ye publicke.

Mr Alexr Gibsone will cause speake ye minister of currie for hether.

The captane will see yat yei be honest men who watches and keeps ye ports (*i.e.*, gates).

Ordains to put all ye strea (*i.e.*, straw) yat is bought for cleaning into ye scooll and also ye hether to be put in ye scooll yard in a stacke.

(*Note.*—The reference is to the music school, part of King James Hospital in the churchyard.)

Robert Murro was voted to be thesaurer for ye space of eight dayes becaus James Seatone (*i.e.*, the treasurer) his woman is fallin seek of ye infection and ye said James will advance pntlie to ye said Ro. 300 pounds.

22 *Julie* 1645.—Mr David our Session clercke is ordainit to give James Beg ane warrand (in nam of ye Sessione) for his horse and greath to restore ym back agane saife and sound efter ye mucke and filth is caryed out of ye towne.

(*Note.*—The Session were now at this extremity that when they required anything they laid hands upon it without payment.)

24 *Julie* 1645.—Mr Alexr Gibson or pastor reportit yat Mr Jon Charteres minister of Currie said to him yat ye men of his parioch will bring no more hether becaus yei were not thankfullie payit for ye last yei brought.

Francis Wilkie will send ane letter to Sir Wm. Scot for hether.

(*Note.*—This was Sir Wm. Scott of Malleny, near Currie (a judge of the Court of Session).)

To cause Malcome ye foul cleanser to slay all kyne (*i.e.*, cattle) in ye Links who haith no owners for ye use of ye poor in ye Links.

Ordains to give ye 6 bolls of meal in ye umqll David Whyte's house to ye poor.

26 *of Julie* 1645.—Recomends to ye Bailies James Crawfurd and Rot Murray to value James Begs horses qt yei are worth with yr greath (*i.e.*, harness) for leading out of ye muck of ye toune in cairts.

Wm. arburneth and alex collin are ordained to make ye graves in ye fensie.

(*Note.*—The meaning of "fensie" is not known. No particular place in the Links was set apart for the plague graves; indeed, from the remains found it would seem as if a fresh spot had been chosen for the burials of each successive day. They abound from Hermitage Hill to Constitution Street. In 1832 when the foundations of Wellington Place were laid, and again in 1861 when excavations for drainage took place there, masses of half decayed bones were found intermixed with fragments of blankets. They were at first held to be those of soldiers who had perished in the attack or defence of Leith. Dr Robertson maintained with more suggestion of accuracy that they were the remains of persons who had died of the plague. When the road at Restalrig was opened recently for purposes of drainage, quantities of bones were unearthed in two places adjacent to the churchyard, which probably belonged to the same period.)

Ordains to cleange ye magisine hous with all expeditione seeing Georg Nesbit is fallin seeke and at ye poynt of death.

The order for serving of ye people in ye Links and Town.

(*Note.*—Here follow the names of 19 quartermasters appointed to the four quarters. Apparently the usual quarters in the Town had quarters to correspond in the Links.)

26 *Julie* 1645.—It was actit and ordainit yat none sould be buried in ye church yard who died of ye pest after yis day but those who largelie sould acknowledge ye poor and yrfor recomend ye cair yrof to William Ruddoch thesaurer yat non presume to breake ground till he be advertissed heirof.

28 *Julie* 1645.—Forsameikle as yr is a sowme of money awand be ye session to Beatrix Smeaton for timber and dealls and seing ye said Beatrix is awand to Rot Brisone some moneyes, yrfor it is thought fit ye Sessione should give ane band to ye said Rot for ye said sowme yat ye Sessione is dew to hir *pro tanto*.

(*Note.*—The woman here named was a victim of the plague. The Treasurer's accounts contain a charge "for furnishing of Andro Rea and Beatrix Smeaton his wif, ye tyme of yr seekness and for yr buriall.")

2*nd August* 1645.—The act of Parliament given at Pearth the 2nd Augt. 1645 for releife of the distressit toun of Leith the tyme of the great visitatioun of the plague of pestilence. At Pearth the second day of August in the zeir of God 1645 zeiris. The Estaites of Parliament, now presentlie conveinit in this fourth sessione of the first triennial parliament, by vertu of the last act of the last parliament, holdene be his Majestie and three Estaites, anno 1641, having takin to theire consideratione the desyre of ane supplicatione gevin in by Jhone Aldinstone, ane of the baillies of Leith, and Captain James Crawfurd indweller there, for themselfis and in behalf of the remanent inhabitants of the said town of Leith, bearing That where it is not unknowne to the saids Estaites the calamitie and distress whereunder the said town doe lye for the present, being visit with the plague of pestilence in such sort that the nomber of the dead exceeds the nomber of the leiving, and amongst them it cannot be decernit quha are clean and quha are foulle; and make the calamitie greater, they are visit with ane lamentabile famine, both for penurie and also for laicke of means; for which cause the saids supplicants are forced, in their names, to have recourse to the said Estaites, beseeching them out of the bowels of mercie to conserat theire lamentabill conditioun, both towards them as also towards the rest of the countrie, they being now reducit to that extremitie of necessitie—rather than to perish of famine to breake throue the rest of the countrie, wherebye the haill kingdom sall be endangerit. And therefore humblie beseeching your lordsps to grant unto them some present supplie, and to take such present course for theire reliefe as the foirsaid evil may be previned, as the said supplicatione at mair length bears. Quhilk supplicatione being redde in the audience of Parliament, and the just merits thereof being dulie weighted and considered, the said Estaites of Parliament be thir presentis gives and grants full power and warrand to the present magistrates of the toune of Leith, or their commissioners and servandis having their warrand, to meddle and intromett with the nomber of ane quantitie of five hundreth bolls of eat meill, and that out of anie sellar or sellars in Leith, wherebe they may have it for medling and intrometting wherewith, and (if needs bees) making open doores for that effect. The saids Estaites declares thir presentis to be to the said magistrates and their servandis and comssrs ane sufficient warrand; and the said Estaites hes allowed, and be their presentis grants full libertie to the said magistrates of the toune of Leith or anie having their warrand, to passe throwe all the sheriffdoms of this kingdom, or any of them, as they think fitt be south the water of Tay, to crave the helpe and supplie of ane voluntarie and charitable contributione for payment of the foirsaid victual and furnishing of such things as may be useful to the said towne of Leith, now in such ane extremitie. *Extractum de libris actarum per me, Alexandrum Gibsone, cl. registri.*

This is a just copie of the authentic, insert in our register be Mr David Aldinstone, our sessione clerk.

(*Signed*) Da. Aldinstoune, *Session Clerk.*

(*Note.*—This Act gives an appalling picture of the misery which now afflicted the town. The horrors of famine were added to the curse of pestilence, and, no doubt, it is to their combined influences that the fearful mortality is to be attributed. Of this, and of the despair which prevailed, we get a vivid idea from the expressions "remanent inhabitants"; "the nomber of the dead exceeds the nomber of the leiving"; "to breake throue the rest of the countrie." There is no record to show that the magistrates meddled with the

500 bolls of oat meal or sent out a begging expedition "be south the water of Tay." The likelihood is that all the meal in the town had already been commandeered and the limits of begging reached. Temporary aid was wanted in the shape of a grant of money to purchase the necessaries of life, and not providing this the Act did nothing to help the town, which now was redolent with the atmosphere of death.)

3 *August* 1645.—Jon Ochiltree was appoynted overseer of ye cairters qo caryes out ye mucke, and sall have weeklie 3 lib.

Ordains ye cairters to yoke at 6 hours in ye morning and leid till 1 hours and to yoke agane at 2 efternoon and contenue till 6 hours at evin.

Ordains Alex. Broune to tak out James Storie his caldrone and sett besyd ye kills for cleansing.

6 *of August* 1645.—The qlk day the Bailies and Mr James Sharp or pastor with diverse urs went to ye Linkes and yr choysed so many men to be qrter maisters yr to serve ye people in ye Linkes constantlie everie one of ym. with ane boy as followeth, . . . also yei nominat and appoynted 12 women to com to ye toune to mucke out and redd ye houses to be cleansed who were come throwe in yis visitaone and everie ane of yir forsaid 12 women to have weeklie 4s. and yr ordinarie intertainment qn yei workes.

(*Note.*—The names are given of the men, women, and boys. The Session had an instinctive knowledge that the way to stem the plague was to cleanse the town, and in this work they persisted, raising the wages of the workers as the number of men available became less. At this date it would seem that new men could no longer be had and women and boys were employed although the work was attended with great danger of infection.)

7 *Agust* 1645.—Ordains Rt Cuninghame to provyd barrowes grapes and shools (*i.e.*, shovels) for out carying of ye mucke out of ye houses.

Desyrs or Reader Mr David to ryd to Currie and Killsith for hether.

Ordains to cause pay for ye horse yat Wm. Strachane haith carying out ye dead corpses 40 lib.

7 *Agust* 1645.—Compeared James Crawfurd and ye said James shew ye danger yat ye copper of his brewarie was in be reasone Wm Ruddoch his gavill (*i.e.*, gable) and chymney lumbs was ruinous and at ye falling yrof, yei gave order to take doun ye said lumbs to ye effect ye said James Crawfurd may be safe of danger and have his brewarie going in brewing of bear for ye use of ye publicke.

7 *Agust* 1645.—Ordains Jon Ochiltree stabler to go to ye smyth in Restalrig to cause him make horse shoone to shoe ye horse yat leads out ye mucke in ye cairts.

Ordains to give to Alexr Browne suche ane sowme of money as will pay for building of ye kille and setting of ye caldrone.

14 *of Agust* 1645.—The qlk day Alexr Broune maltman in Leith was electit and choysen thesaurer.

(*Note.*—While the Session clerk continued to live through the plague the Treasurers fell victims to it in rapid succession. Mr Brown's accounts were audited and signed by the Session clerk and among other entries there is this one, "ye said Alexr Broune wared upon ye building of ye kill conforme to his own particular compt the sum of ane hundreth three score four pounds.")

14 *of Agust* 1645.—Mr David Aldinstone reader to have some consideraone weeklie becaus he can not have ye comodite of his scool and uyr casualities dew to him be ressone of yis visitaone.

28 *Agust* 1645.—James Steinsone maltman was choysene and admittit thesaurer of or churche of South Leith ye tym of ye visitaone (Alexr. Broune being upo dead bed) and with him Mr David reader and session clercke.

Upon ye 1 of Sepr 1645 ye said James Steinsone receavit frome Helin Watsone relick of umqll Alexr Broune (last thesaurer) ye sowme of £1087-08-00; also ye said James receavit from ye said Helin Watson ye sowme of £0104-00-00 qlk rests of ye 268 lib qlk he gat to build ye kill *ut supra.*

(*Note.*—There are no minutes from this date until 8th October.)

8 *Octor* 1645.—The qlk day Mr Alexr. Gibsone or pastor . . . . was conveinit upo ye new kie (*i.e.* quay) with diverse of ye neighbours and yei ordainit these ordinances following.

First.—Yat it most be considered and thought upo how monyes sall be gottene for to pay ye burdings qrwith ye sessione is burdinit

and to provyd necessares for cleansing with all expedition.

Secondlie.—That everie one who haith arrable land about yis toune with all possible diligence fall to and lead ye mucke out of all ye quarters freelie taking to yr land paying nothing for ye same but yr own travell.

Thirdlie.—Yat ye comone cairts carie out all ye cluttrie (*i.e.*, bedding) out of ye toune and lay it together in ane heape to be burnt and also yat some women gather together ye clutrie strae chafe (*i.e.*, chaff) and uyr filth that is without ye toune and lay it together to be burnt and yis to be done betwixt and fryday next.

Fourthlie.—Yt yr be a cair taken to provyd horse for home bringing of ye hether.

Fyvtlie.—Ordains to provyd 6 cleangers and present yem before our meitting upo ye Lords day nixt.

12 *of Octor* 1645.—The qlk day being ye Lords day efter ye efternoone sermon it was referrit to ye bailie James barnes to speak with my Lord Provost bailies and counsell of Edr. superiours of or toune of Leith how many men may be gottine to cleanse yis or said toune.

Also yt yr be a warrand gottine from ye said toune counsell of Edr. for borrowing of monyes and qt securitie may be given yrfor.

Also to try further qt ye good towne of Edr. haith zit remaining in yr hands of yat sowme yat was collectit be ym for releise of ye distresse of yis or toune.

To yis effect ye said James Barns and Mr Alexr. Gibsone or pastor are to go to ye Counsell of Edr.

The Bailie gave comand to his officers to lay ym fast in prison who will not cary out mucke out of yis toune qo hath horse and land lying about ye same.

(*Note.*—The work of cleansing Leith of its primeval filthiness recalls the labours of Hercules in cleansing the Augean stables. The houses of the time were built partly of wood, partly of boulders gathered at the sea shore. There were no ceilings to hide the low thatched rafters, no ventilation or drains. The windows were filled with moveable boards, which in cold weather were mostly kept tight. The fire rested on the ground and the smoke either made its exit by a hole in the roof, or by a primitive chimney, or made a circuit of the room and escaped by the door, which was so low that a man required to stoop when entering. The earthen floor was rarely swept and so accumulated all manner of rubbish and decaying matter. It is easy to see that in such dens—small, primitive, and overcrowded—the spread of the plague could not be checked without extreme difficulty. Here amid the dark, narrow, and filthy wynds the demon of disease had his nativity, spreading awe, terror, and superstition around.)

25 *of Octor* 1645.—Bailie James Barnes ordainit his officers to put all ye women in prisone who will not worke at ye publicke worke qo are ordainit to worke.

Ordains yose people who are of any qualitie and may pay for cleanging of yr clothes to resort to Bessie Cookes killn to kill yr clothes and uyrs of under rank to resort to ye kill in Logan's Lie.

(*Note.*—Logans Lie, *i.e.*, Logans meadow; the land lying alongside the old stronghold of the Logans, at the Lochend Loch.)

25 *Octor* 1645.—Ordainit yat no inhabitant within yis toune (who haith been furth of ye same) be suffered to enter within ye same till yei be tryed qr yei have been and whether yei be cleane or foulle.

2 *Nov* 1645.—The said day yr was no preaching be reasone of foull wether and or pastor Mr Alex. Gibsone cam not becaus of ye great storms yrfor no session.

(*Note.*—The foul weather and great storms prevented the preaching on this Sabbath day, but although in such forbidding disguise they came in blessing to the stricken town. When the rains had descended and the winds had blown, the last plague of Leith was dragging its evil course to an end.)

9 *Nov.* 1645.—The said day it wais ordainit to be intimat ye nixt Lords day yat no widows should be maried till three quarters of ane year be past efter yr former housbands death seing now in ye tym of ye pnt visitaone many widowes comes to geive up yr names to be proclaimit.

16 *Nov* 1645.—The said day no preaching yrfor no session.

23 *Nov.* 1645.—Ordains to remove the great copper kettill qlk stands in ye Links besyd ye kill becaus it is too much for cleanging of clothes and yat ye said great copper be reponed to ye brewarie of umqll James Storie from whence it was borrowed.

(*Note.*—Storrie's Alley is possibly named after this James Storie.)

Ordains the thesaurer to sett ane caldron besyd ye Toolls for cleansing of clothes yt yr efter yei may be killed.

(*Note.*—The Toolls or Twills was a district between Bowling Green Street and the Water of Leith. This Minute seems to indicate that clothes after being washed in the caldrons were put into the kilns to be further disinfected.)

Our magistrat James Barns was desyred to cause make publicke intimaone ye morne be touke (*i.e.*, tuck) of drum that all who haith yr houses and yr gear cleansed, cleange yr bodies with all expeditione.

As also to make intimaone yat ye church is to be cleangit yis weeke and ye preaching will be in ye church ye nixt Lords day.

Therefore to inhibit all and everie one who are foul and not cleangit betwixt and ye said nixt Lords Day to come to ye church but ym sellffs appairt (*i.e.*, apart) till yei be cleangit.

Ordains yat in tym coming no parties sall have ye benefit of mariag till yei be cleangit.

(*Note.*—The last to be cleansed were oddly enough the church and the bodies of the people. To compel the people to carry out this new instruction they were forbidden to enter the church or to marry until they were cleansed.)

Ordained to remove umqll David Girdman his Ludge yat is sett up among his kaill yr and sett it neirer ye wattersyd to keep ye foull clothes yrin till yei be cleangit.

30 *Nov.* 1645.—Ordains to have two men for watching everie nyght qr ye cleansers have been cleansing in ye day tym for fear of fire.

7 *Decr.* 1645.—It was ordanit that all ye Ludges in ye Links sall be taken doune (except a few) and be brought in to ye church yarde for ye use of ye churche to whom so ever yei appertaine.

Ordains every constable to visit yr qrters this week and report in qt estait ye people are in and who are new incomers.

Ordains intimaone be maid ye nixt Lords day yat no land laird sall sett (*i.e.*, let) houses to any new incomer without leave askit and givene of magistrat and sessione.

14 *Decr.* 1645.—Ordains Wm. forrester to exhibit and geive in ane compt of ye testaments yat were wrytin be umqll James Drysdall, notary ye tyme of ye infectione.

Francis Wilkie . . . . . desyred to concur with James Steinsone thesaurer for ingathering of ye Legacies left to ye church sessione be sundrie defuncts.

Ordains intimaone be maid ye nixt Lords day yat no new incomer to yis toune be receavit into any house without a lawfull testimoniall and leave askit and geven of ye magistrats and session.

Lykwayes to intimat yat now seeing ye plague is ceasit yr will be a week days sermon and yat Twisday most be ye day.

Ordains to cleang ye Tolbuith and steiple yis weeke.

Ordains all whosoever yei are who are not wholle of yr wounds of ye plague be sequestrat and put apart out of yis toune seeing ye toune is almost cleangit and yat yei be put out to Cochrins house in ye Links.

Ordains also yat ye silver Wark ye Charter Kist and Church buird clothes and all uyr things perteining to ye church be resavit from Beatrix Hodg daughter in Law to umqll Wm. Ruddoch and to be delivered to james Steinsone pnt Thesaurer.

(*Note.*—The "church buird clothes" were the cloths spread on the boards or tables which were specially erected for communions. *Vide*, Minute 5 April 1632. The distinction between pews and tables was fundamental, and is still observed at Communions more conveniently yet quite effectively by placing linen cloths on the centre pews, which thus for the time become Communion Tables.)

Ordains James Steinsone Thesaurer to pay ye Minister and Reader yr Stipends by gone at Mertimes.

21 *December* 1645.—The qlk day (efter incalling upon our Lord) Jon Moubra Francis Wilkie Jon Gray Rot. Murro Elders James Steinsone Thesaurer and Mr David Aldinston our Session Clerk Reportit that they had visit Umql Wm. Ruddoch his accounts but thei could not conclude ye said compt because yei fand some difficulties in ye charge of his accounts, yrfor yei continued ye conclusione yrof till farther and till James Seatone his compts be revisit.

The difficulties wer those they could not find ye contributione throwe ye toune for help to ye Ministers reader and Scoolmr yr Steipends

Also yei could not find ye Weeklie contribution throwe ye toune ye time of ye Visitation of ye plague.

Thirdlie yei could not find ye compt of ye annuelrents Fourthlie yei could not find ye collection at ye church door from ye 8th of May to the fifth of June yis year nather ordinare nor extraordinar Nevertheless this yei fand in his Charge.

First ye collections at ye Church door from the 29 of Novr. 1644 (at qlk time his last compts were fittit) to the 8 of May 1645 inclusive to amount to

	lib.	sh.	D.
ye soume of.....	1034	01	04.
Penalties and extraordinar contribution.....	0225	14	04.
for St. Antons from ye 29 Novr. 1644 to ye 21st Feby. 1645 to amount to ye soume of.....	0447	01	02.
Item yei fand a litle book since ye last admission of ye said Umqll Wm. Ruddoch to be Thesaurer qlk was upo ye 21 of Julie 1645, to ye 9 of August inclusive sundrie particulares extending to ye soum of.....	1932	10	08.
The soume of all yat yei could find in his charge conform to ye former particulars extends to.....	3639	07	06.

Ordaines to get James Seatone his compt Book ye tym yat he was Thesaurer yat his compts being collationed with the said Umql William his compts yat a conclusion and a fitting up yrof may be perfetit till ye qlk tym yei cannot be fittit.

23 *Decr.* 1644.—The qlk day being ye first day of ye meitting of ye session in ye sessione house efter ye restraint of ye plague of pestilence (blissed bee our LORD) it was ordainit ye elders and deacones should be thinking upo some speciall honest men (whom our Lord hath spared) to be upo ye sessione.

This day efter ye sessione dissolved the silver worke pertaining to our church of South Leith was receavit be James Steinsone pnt Thesaurer frome Beatrix Hodg douchter-in-law to umqll Wm. Ruddoch viz:—Two silver basins, four great silver coups, two buird clothes for ye comunione Tables and ane uyr Short buird cloth for ye litill table at ye head of ye said two tables—Lykways ye said James Steinsone receavit the charter chist.

(*Note.*—The Bailies and ministers sat at the little table which was placed at the end of the two long tables on Communion Sundays.)

30 *Decr.* 1645.—Refers to ye Bailie and James Steinson to have ane cair of ye ports yat yei be keepit fast.

(*Note.*—At this date the town wall was probably a diminishing quantity yet the law forbade people to clamber over it, and all were expected to enter and leave the town by the ports or gates. These ports were kept by watchers armed with hagbuts, whose business it was to prevent suspicious persons from entering the town. The Session were anxious to keep out all infected persons now that the town had been freed from the plague.)

Ordains to give to ye old blind woman in Rot Mathison's close some meall.

Ordains Wm. Gilmuir in ye baksyd of ye church yard to give ye key of ye bak entree throw ye church yard to thomas bowie pnt bedill.

(*Note.*—This refers to the entry at the end of the road to the altar-stane.—*Vide* Minute, 10th August 1643.)

6 *January* 1646.—The qlk day ye Session and neighbours being convenit concerning ye vacancie of our Ministrie by ye death of our Umqull faithfule pastor Mr James Sharpe (Mr Andro Fairfowl Minister in North Leith being Moderator yis day) efter much consulting the whole Sessione and Neighbours being particularlie enquired whom they would have to supply yat place of yr Minister They all unanimouslie and in ane voice condescendit that Mr Alex. Gibsone our present pastor should be preferred to that place and Therefor presentlie ther was ane application drawn up to be presentit ye morn before ye Presbytery of Edin to intreat yr Rev. Wisdomes to concurre with ye Sessione and neighbours and Second yr Letters with yrs to my Lord Balmerinoch who is patron to yis effect also ye whole neighbours and Session desyred that ye said supplicatione

should be insert and registrat in yis our Sessione book *ad futuram rei memoriam*—qrof the tenor followeth.

To the Right Reverend the Moderator and remanent brethren of ye Presvyterie of Edinburgh. The humble supplication of ye parishioners of South Leith.

Whereas we your Petitioners efter mature and serious deliberatione have in our judgment found it most conducing to ye glorie of God and ye good of our congregatione that our present Minister Mr Alex. Gibsone should be preferred to that place which is now vacant be ye death of our Umqll faithful Pastor Mr James Sharpe Wee have unanimouslie resolved with all expeditione to despatch away letters for that effect to my Lord Balmerinoch who is Patron. To ye end yrfor our letters may find ye more prosperous success our humble desyre to your Wisdoms is yat ye wold be pleased so farre to take this into your consideratione so as to second our reasonable and religious intentions with your Letters to ye same purpose which wee are hopeful shall find a very gracious acceptance as it is solid experience we have of his fidelties and dilligence in feeding the flock of God which is amongst us not by constraint but Willinglie not for filthy lucre but of a reddie mynd in our greatest straits, and dangers that hath put this edge on our desyres so we are confident his integrity in ye publick cause of religion his peaceable modest and brotherlie behaviour wherein always he hath approven himselffe towards youe sall easily obtain this just favour at your hands These tymes wherein the Lord his hand hath been smyting us haith abundantlie testified how willing he hath beene gladlie to bestowe and to be bestowed for our soules and we hope it sall be favourablie constructed by you that he is not now ye lesse loved among us, the more he hath loved us Wee sall god willing prosiquit this errand in that conscience and dutifulnesse that becomes a people sensible of a pastoral cair among yem and we intreat your W. may not be defective to us in our pyous designe whereon ane compresbyter is so nearly concerned and yr W. ansr in yis We humblie crave.

This supplication being drawn up and read in the audience of the whole Sessione and neighbours They all agreed to present it to the Reverend Brethren of ye Presbyterie of Edinr. ye morn ye 7 of January and yat yei would go thither themselffes to backe yer supplicatione.

But first of all it was advysed that three of our number should go to My Lady Balmerinoch to shawe her Ladieship that our Sessione and neighbours were to supplicat ye Presbyterie foresaid for ye samen effect foresaid qrfor John Moubray Ruling Elder and with him Johne Bowie and William Comrie Elders were named and voyced be ye Sessione and neighbours to go to my Ladie Balmerinoch foresaid to acquaint her La of the premises qrto they assentit and went to her La.

Upo ye 7 of January a great number of ye Sessione and neighbours went to the Presbyterie and gave in the Supplicatione foresaid qlk supplicatione ye Brethren of ye Presbeterie gratiouslie acceptit and efter ye reading yrof they voiced whether it was expedient or not to second our Letter with yr letters to My Lord Ballmerinoch for ye effect foresaid Then efter a serious deliberation The said Reverend Brethren concludit that thei wald write ane letter qlk they did being subscrivit be ye pnt Moderator Mr James Reid and Mr Charles Lumsdaine Clerk of ye Presbyterie.

(*Note.*—The Rev. James Sharp had been first minister from 1639 till his death early in 1646. The patronage of the first charge was enjoyed by the Balmerino family until their attainder in 1745, when the right was assumed by the Crown. The Rev. Alex. Gibson, minister of the second charge, was highly esteemed by the people, as these Minutes show, and the efforts made to have him appointed to the first charge furnish a commentary on the patronage system. This Lord Balmerino was a member of Session. He took a leading part in the public affairs of the time, which explains his absence from Leith at the date of this Minute.)

11 *January* 1646.—The said day being the Lords the Sessione and neighbours did conveine efter ye efternoone sermon according to yr own ordinance from ye last dyat of yr meeting and efter in calling upon God there was presentit ane letter from ye Right Reverend Brethren of our Presbyterie of Edr. to second our letters to

my Lord Balmerinoch in favor of Mr Alexr. Gibson our pnt pastor for ye vacant place of our Umqle faithful pastor Mr James Sharpe as also oure owne letters in favor of our said pastor direct from this wholl parioch, Sessione, and neighbours to my Lord Balmerinoch, were read qrto the whole Session and neighbours with great affection condescentit and unanimouslie subd. the same and they desyred yat yis supplication and act of Subscriving ye same should be insert and registered in yis our Sessione book *ad futuram rei memoriam.*

The tenor of the said Supplicatione hereafter followeth :—

Our Trustie honored Lord :—Wee the remant of the congregatioun of South Leith and Restalrig whom God in his mercie hath spared in the midst of so sad a visitation have longed much for your Lordships return unto us To ye end that place of our ministrie which is at your Lo : presentatione and now so long vaccand by the death of our Umqle faithful pastor Mr James Sharp, by your Lo: presence myght have been the more tymously provydit but understanding that the great affairs whairwith your Lordship is at this tyme intrusted by the Kingdome may possibly withhold your Lo: longer from us, After much consulting as in a mater so neirlie concerning the weil of our souls, we have taken the boldness by these to present to your Lo: our earnest desyre humblie petitioning your Lo : may be pleased to present Mr Alexander Gibsone who hath served much of these six years amongst us. Thair be many pregnant reasons moving us unanimouslie to intend and firmlie follow this purpose some qrof haith satisfied ye Presbetrie that they have seconded and assisted our Letters to yor Lo: with yrs, his Literatur (qrof your Lo: is more able to judge than Wee) his unblameable conversatione walking as ane example to us his flock, his integrity in ye publicke cause of religion, his fidelitie and diligence in dispensing the holy things at all occasions his prudent resolution in vindicating the libertie of our Kirk and Session and his willingness to bestow gladly and to be bestowed for our soules when the hand of the Lord was heavily smyting us haith prevealed with us to join our endeavours to this effect And trulie wee must confesse if any other be already or shall be heirafter presented it sould be a mater of great greife and discouragement to us But wee are hopful your Lo: wisdome and pietie will preveine those evils gratiouslie condescending to ye just and humble wishes of your Lo: petitioners since in this we have nothing before oure eyes but ye glorie of God and ye furtherance of our salvatione Thus expecting with the first occasion ane favourable ansr returned from yor Lo: to us wee shall always pray for your Lo : prosperitie and for a blessing upo the great work in your hands as becometh.

Yr Lo : humble and obliged Servants the parrichioners of South Leith and Restalrige.

13 *Januar* 1646.—The names of the new session for the year of God 1646.

Baillies William Trotter and James Barns.

(*Note.*—Here follows a list of Elders with deacons to correspond. The Sands quarter has three, Hill quarter, three, Tolbuith quarter, three, Lees quarter, six, Restalrig two, and Cragend one. This Bailie Trotter probably belonged to the Mortonhall family.)

Ordains to render everie man his horse backe agane who served ye publick in ye tyme of ye visitaone.

Mr Georg Phin Scoolmr of ye gramer Scool demanded of ye sessione if it were yr wills that he should come & enter to his charge and tak up his scool agane now efter ye infectione seing ye Lord haith maid ye Towne weell agane, to ye qlk it was anserit that they wold advyse till Candlemas.

25 *Jan.* 1646.—The qlke day (being ye Lords day) Intimaone was maid from ye pulpit be our pastor Mr Alexr. Gibsone that whosoevers were found druncke or sabboth breakers . . . for ye second fault they sal be brought in ye publicke view of ye whole congregaon & sall be sett upon ane high seat befor ye pulpit & make yr publicke repentance & sall pay such a peneltie as sal be injoined yem be ye civil magistrat.

Secondlie Intimaon was maid That yr will no mariages be solemnized upo ye Lords day in tyme coming becaus of ye abuse of ye said day & neglect of familie exerceise.

Thirdlie yat yr be no intercourse betwixt ye cleane people & ye foul who are infected with ye plague of pestilence.

3 *Feby* 1646.—It was ordainit that upo ye Lords day befor noone the first bell to ye preaching should be at 7 hours, ye second at 8 hours & ye third at halfe 9—efter noone, ye first bell at halfe ane & ye second at ane & ye third at halfe two hours.

(*Note.*—The Scotch way of saying 8.30 was "half nine." This is still a common form of expression.)

3 *Febr.* 1646.—Not of defuncts ye tym of ye visitatioun ut sequitur.

The quhilk day (efter incalling upone God) Mr David Aldinstone, reader, reportit that he had gone to everie elder in particular, and receavit the nomber of the defuncts who died of the infection in anno 1645, and the nomber is as followeth :—

Sands quarter—James Gibsone, 069 ; Alexr. Ruddoch, 044 ; James Downie, 114—227.
Hill quarter—Francis Wilkie, 068 ; John Gray baxter, 136 ; Andro Archibald 186—390.
Tolbuith quarter—Robert Murro 203 ; Jhone Bewie 273 ; Alexr. Balfour 133—609.
Lees quarter—Jhone Mubray 165 ; Js. Crawfurd 263 ; Jhone Kelloe 167 ; James Steinsone 170 ; Robt. Mathisone 207 ; Wm. Comrie 223—1195.

So the whole no in South Leith is 2421.

In Restalrig yr died to the number of 160, in Craigend yr died 155. The number of the whole defuncts in the whole parioch wilbe 2736.

(*Note.*—The Sands quarter was the Bernard Street district ; the Hill was Coalhill ; the Lees was St. Anthony's and Yardheads ; Craigend was Calton. The two ends of the Barony of Restalrig were Lochend and Craigend ; *i.e.*, the part with the loch and the part with the craig or hill. The population of South Leith before the plague was under 4000, and of this number the great proportion lived in the Lees quarter. Here ends the record of the plague of 1645, the last in Scotland and one of the most virulent. It is remarkable that the "Great Plague" of 1665 never touched Scotland. Previous to 1645 the visitations were numerous, *e.g.*, 1497 ; 1530 ; 1568 ; 1585 ; 1588. These dates show its frequent return and no doubt made the treatment matter of common knowledge to the authorities. Of the plague of 1645 an interesting memorial still exists in the "Morocco Land" in the Canongate ; said to have been built by a Morocco pirate, who attacked Edinburgh. He cured the Provost's daughter of her sickness, married her, and ultimately revealed himself as Andrew Gray, a younger son of the Master of Gray, a family now merged in that of Stuart, Earl of Moray. No memorial of the plague exists in Leith except the graves of the unknown victims.)

17 *Febr.* 1646.—Intimaone was maid upo ye 15 of febr. being ye Lords day that ye pairties who were to geive up yr names to proclaime yr bands matrimonial should come to ye sessione house in ye church upo ye Saturday at 2 hours afternoone at ye ringing of ye bell & yr befor two of ye sessione & ye sessione clercke yr names should be takine up.

Leietenant Colonell Barnard Lindsay petitioned ye sessione yat it wold please yr wesdomes to licentiat him to put a rail about ye burial place of umqlle Sir Jeremie Lindsay becaus some were buried yr who aught not to be buried in yat place.

To ye qlk petitione it was anserit that no ground should be broken yr to any defunct whosoever but to such who were descendit of yat line and stem and to such whom he should please.

But ye said Leuetenant wold not take yat for ane ansr but wold still supplicat ye sessione till yei grantit him his said petitione.

(*Note.*—Lieutenant Colonel Lindsay was grandson to the Rev. David Lindsay, first minister of the church after the Reformation. This refers to a burial place within the church, where we may suppose the Rev. David Lindsay was himself buried.)

17 *Febr.* 1646.—Robert Hog in Restalrig and Ion Deny at Craigend were desired to goe to my Ladie Balmerinoch to speake to hir Ladieship for a bailife to ye landward pairt of yis parioch.

20 *Feby.* 1646.—The qlk day the Visitors of Umql Wm. Ruddoch his compts Viz :—John Moubray of Cammo, James Gibsone, Francis Wilkie and John Gray did visit ye said compts and proceedit as followeth :—

1. First yei fand not zit ye contribution throwe ye towne for ye Ministers Reader and Schoolmaister yr Stipends.
2. Secondlie yei could not find ye collection at ye church door from ye 8 of May to ye 5 of June ye said year 1645, nathar ordinar nor extraordinare.

3. Kempsfield Band to be righted and ye dait yrof and ye rest of the annuelrents to be referred to the debtors discharges.

The things they fand rectified qlk was not found ye last time ye said compts were visit are as followeth :—

1. They were satisfied for ye collectione at the Windmillne ye time of ye Visitatione because James Seatone charged his compts therewith.
2. Yei were satisfied for ye contribution throwe ye toune weeklie the time of the Visitatione because also James Seatone charged his compts yrwith.
3. Thirdlie yei fand in James Seaton his books so meikle more charge to ye soume of 246 lib 13.4 qr with ye said Umql Wm. Ruddoch is to be charged in his compts qlk is to be added to ye soume of 1932 lib 10 sh 8d. that was found in a litel book since his last entry qlk will make in all ye soume of 2201 lib 4s. 0d.

DISCHARGE.

They fand in his Discharge from ye 29 of Novr. 1644 to the 8 of May 1645 ye compts of ye extraordinar poor and strangers with sundrie outgiving to pius uses..... 842 : 00 : 2
The said tyme to other ordinar poor..... ..... 307 : 00 : 8

The total soume is 1149 : 00 : 10

24 *Febr.* 1646.—The Sessione condescendit yat Lieuetenent Collonell Barnard Lindsay sall put a raile about ye buriall place of umqll Sir Jerome Lindsay.

Ordains Francis Wilkie to visit ye said burial place before ye said raill be sett up that it be not sett over farre out from ye church wall but about 8 foot.

Janet Nicolsone being warnit for banning and sweiring upon ye Lords day compeared and was ordained to sit downe upon hir knees in presens of ye sessione and crave Gods mercie for ye same qlk shee did.

(*Note.*—This was a common offence; as was the kindred one of "flyting and scolding." From such minutes we gather that the manners of the time were rude and coarse especially amongst women.)

3 *March* 1646.—Magdalen Houston and Margaret Keith petitioned ye chyre that appertains to or Umqll Pastor Mr David Lindsay his wife hir seat yrfor conteinues ane ansr to yr Petitiones till farther avysment.

3 *Marche* 1646.—The Sessione ordains that pntlie ye gramer scool doors sall be maid open and yat ye scollers should enter and conveine according to ye former intimaone now efter ye infectione seing our Lord haith removed ye same.

10 *March* 1646.—Andro Brysone merchand burges of Edr and Archibald Walker sailer in Leith compeard and ye said Archbald declared yat ye said Andro releived him (being captive in Argeir among ye Turks) out of captivitie and that he had payit for his ransom.

Desyrs or bailzie to speake.....for ye sowme of 900 mercks qlk ye said..... receavit from or Sessione to release the forsaid Archbald Walker.

(*Note.*—This case is referred to in the minutes of 15 August and 5 December 1644 *supra.*)

17 *March* 1646.—Ion Mathisone was cited befor or Session and was inhibited and dischargit to hold any scool for teaching of bairnes ather for reading wryting or any uyr kind of Literature qtsoever directlie or indirectlie within yis or congregaon of South Leith in all tymes coming and ordains intimaone heirof to be maid publicklie frome ye pulpit.

17 *March* 1646.—The qlk day (efter in calling upo ye Lord) it was unanimouslie condescendit yat Agnes Bell relict of Umql Mr James Sharp our Pastor should have ye Stipend yat was due to him ye tyme of his decease if yr were any remaining unpayit ye compt being Visit.

Agnes Bell relict of Umql Mr James Sharpe hir discharge registrat.

I Agnes Bell relict of Umql Mr James Sharp Minister at Leith confess and acknowledge that ye inhabitants and loving neighbours in Leith hath payit to my said Umqle husband all that they were due to him for his serving the cure at yr Kirk of South Leith ather by

promise or use of payment or any wages due to him by ye said Toune. And further for ye love and respect qlk the said Inhabitants caryd to my said Umql husband They have pntlie given to me as his Relick the sum of Four hundredth merks scots money as ane free gift and gratuitie they nowayes being obliged in the payment yrof Qrof I grant ye ressait and discharges yem yrof and of all that I can ask or crave from yem as Relict and Executrix to my said Umquhile husband any manner of way be his decease In Witness Whereof I have subt. yer pnts wryten be James Murray Younger Wryter in Edr. at Leith ye threttie day of March ia/vi fourtie and six years before yir Witnesses William Cunningham Elder Merchant Burgess of Edinr. and Mr David Aldinstone Sessione Clercke at South Leith—

Sic subscribitur Agness Bell. Wm. Cunningham Witness. David Aldinstone Witness.

31 *March* 1646.—Ye Sessione in ane voice unanimusly condescendit yat Jhone Moubray ye Laird of Cammo should be bailie of St Anthons.

(*Note.*—The jurisdiction of the Bailie of St Anthony's extended over the lands belonging to the church and the people residing thereon. The last of these Bailies was Thomas Barker of Yardheads Brewery, who held office so late as 1833. The Moubrays had been lairds of Cammo and Barnbougle for centuries, but sold their estates in 1637.)

7 *Aprill* 1646.—The qlk day it was thought expedient yat.....should meit with ye bailies Wm. Trotter and James Barnes to consult and think upon a fair way to gait moneyes to pay for ye great charges and expenses qrwith ye Sessione is burthened and was contracted ye tyme of ye visitaone of ye plague of pestilence.

Our pastor Mr Alexr Gibson did propone yat it was a thing verie resonable and equitable yat Mr David Aldinstone Session Clerck should have some consideration for his great pains and on-waitting the tyme of the visitaone who never removed out of yis towne ye said tyme; ye Sessione continued an anser till ye Session be more frequent and yat it was a thing most considerable yat he should be considered for his dilligence paines and travell.

14 *Aprill* 1646.—This day being ane head court day all uyr processes were conteinued becaus ye Sessione must desolve and attend ye provost and bailies and consell of Edr yr down coming.

(*Note.*—This is the first mention in the minutes of a "head-court." The Courts in Leith were conducted in the Tolbooth by the two bailies appointed for Leith by the Edinburgh Town Council, to keep order there and enforce the rights belonging to them as superiors. They may have come down to Leith as they did to Newhaven, where once a year they came to the Parliament Square.)

21 *of Aprill* 1646.—The qlk day the mrs of ye new hospitall were choysene viz for ye maltmen Robert Murray; for ye trades and crafts Francis Wilkie for ye traffickers Jhone Brotherstons.

Ordains to intimat ye nixt Lords day yat yr will be a voluntarie collectione at ye churche door upon ye Lords day for releise of Alexr Ruddoche and his brother James Ruddoche who are lying captive among ye Turks in Argeir.

28 *Aprill* 1646.—Desyres any of ye Sessione to try for a man to regulate our clocke and to ring ye Bells.

Francis Wilkie William Comrie Johne Brotherstones are appoynted to go throwe ye Toune to ingather all ye soumes of money yat is left in legacies to our Session be sundrie defuncts.

28 *Aprill* 1646.—James Murray, Wryter in Edr our agent is this day choysene clercke of our Court of St Anthons in tymes coming becaus he knowes ye estait and affairs of our Sessione.

12 *May* 1646. — Christian Robertson relict of umqll Alexr Guthrie petitioned ye Sessione to have ye favor as to let hir sett up ane hewen stone in ye church yard at ye head of hir husbands corpse but ye Sessione in no wayes would grant hir petition unto hir becaus everie ane wold strive to have ye lyke favor therefor it was not grantit but absolutlie refused to hir and all uyrs.

(*Note.*—This minute shows that at its date the erection of Tombstones was an uncommon custom. To show respect in this way to the dead was thought to savour of popery, and for this reason cherubs and

other carved figures were often mutilated. The erection of tombstones did not become popular until a century later. We possess a few old stones. The oldest is probably the one forming part of the pavement at the south-east doorway ; its date is 1593 and it bears the name of Logan. Many old stones have unfortunately been used up for the pavements in and around the church. This was a convenient practice before the cement pavements were made. The oldest stone standing in the churchyard, which can be deciphered, bears the name Abercromby. It is dated 1656, and stands outside the elders' vestry.)

12 *May* 1646.—Christian Campbell petitioned ye Sessione to have ye benefit of ye chyre to sit in qlk appertaines to Umqle Ninian Thomsons wife qlk stands before ye piller for against ye pulpit be east Magdalen Houston hir chyre, qlk petition was grantit during ye will of ye Session and she paying for ye same as sall be injoyned to hir to pay yeirlie 2 lib 15 sh.

Ordains Francis Wilkie Jhone Kelloe Jhone Bowie Andro Maistertone and James Steinsone to visit ye whol seats in ye church upo Satturday efter 2 hours at ye uptaking of the contracts.

19 *May* 1646.—The qlk day (efter incalling upon God) it was condescendit be the haill Sessione yat ane young man sould be provydit to help Mr Alexr. Gibson our present pastor until ye tyme anither actual Minister be placed, and that ye said young man shall have a settled provisione for ye same.

Ordains our Thesaurer William Comrie to goe to ye steiple and try what ye knock misses yat she may be helpit an mendit.

Now it was voyced whether or not the chyres should be removed out of ye body of ye Kirk and ane boucker placed instead yrof and efter vocing ye voces were fand to be equale yrfor it was continued till a farther considera-tione and a more frequent Sessione.

19 *May* 1646.—Jhone Tailyour, drumer, compeired yis day and was receavit bellman in ye steiple to regulat ye knock yr and to ring ye bells at ye ordinar appoynted tymes viz at 5 hours in ye morning, 8 and 10 hours at even as also at ye ordinar tymes to ye preaching on ye Lords day and week dayes appoynted for sermons and to have for his pains 50 mks, also all ye comoditie he can reep for ringing ye steiple bell to ye burialls.

(*Note.*—The church bell still rings at 5 in the morning and at 8 in the evening. At this date it was tolled for funerals, but the bellman was not bound to do this unless paid for his services.)

26 *May* 1646.—Our pastor Mr Alex Gibsone declared yt it was ye will of ye presbeterie yat everie minister should learne at his owne Kirk Session who were complyars with James Graham so he demandit or said session if yei knowe any complyars and who they were.

(*Note.*—This refers to James Graham the great Marquis of Montrose.)

16 *June* 1646.—James Steinsone Maltman petitioned ye Sessione yis day again for ye litel pew in ye South syd of ye Piller be wast ye Pulpit and bewast ye Seat yat ye Laird of Abercromie sat last in, and be east ye seat ordained for ye Collectors and Searchers for the qlk he wold give pntlie to ye poore Twentie merks and wold pay yearlie for ye samen 10 lib.

Jhone Moubray haith gotten ye benefit of ye two pews at ye East end of ye Kirk qlk is befor ye Skippers laich seats for himsellffe wife and familie to sit yrin during his abod in yis congregation and during ye Will of ye Session for ye qlk he will pay yearlie 20 mks.

Major John Elphinstone petitioned ye Sessione to have ye benefit of ye pew for himselffe and wyf and some other friends to sit in qrin Umql Ladie Priestfield has sat at ye East end of ye church, qlk was granted to him during his abod in yis congregation and during ye Will of ye Session for ye qlk he gave presentlie at ye tyme of his entries 10 mks and willing to pay yearlie 10 mks.

23 *June* 1646.—The Bailie James Bairns pntit yis day to ye Sessione ye list of those whom ye Counsell of Edinr. haith choysen to be stent mrs for stenting of ye Heritors and others in yis toune for reliefe of ye common burdinges yrof yr names are as followeth :—

. . . . . .

Desyres all those stentmrs in Leith to be at ye Counsell ye morne to give yr oaths.

Sir Alexr. Shawie Laird of Sauchie petitioned our Sessione for a Seat in or Church seeing yei are now for ye pnt residenters in yis our toune qlk desyre was grantit and ye

Sessione thought fit that he should have ye formest in ye Loft immediately bewast ye pulpit qlk sometymes general Revin (*i.e.* Ruthven) sat in, and to pay for ye same pntlie at his Entrie.....and to pay yearlie during ye will of ye Sessione and his and his families abod in yis toune ye soume of.....

7 *Julie* 1646.—Forasmeikle as the Session and Alexr. and John Ruddoches haith fittit and cleared Umql Wm. Ruddoch sometyme church Thesaurer his compts, and seeing that the Sessione will be resting to ye said Alexr. and John Ruddoches ye soume of One thousand one hundredth and seventeine pounds Scots money as ane band grantit be ye Session to ym yrof at mair length bears Therefor the said Alexr. Ruddoch freely of his own accord (as ye said band bears) doeth quyt ye annuel rent of Sex hundredth pounds yearlie to ye said Sessione during his lifetime and sall onlie crave ye rent of five hundredth pounds qlk is fourtie pounds yearlie so long as ye said Alexr. leives but efter his death ye wholl principal soume of one thousand one hundredth and seventeine pounds with ye whole annual rents yrof to be furth coming to ye aires of ye said Alexr. be yis act insert in or Register ye 14 of Julie 1646 years. The Band was subt this day.

Umqll William Ruddoch's compts were fitted as followeth :—

Umql William Ruddoch Thesaurer his compt of all ye money receavit be him for ye use of ye poore and Sessione of South Leith since ye 28 of Novr. 1644 to ye 29 of May 1645.

Charge.	Lib.	Sh.	D.
1. Imprimis ye collectione at ye church door and other contributions from ye 29 Nor. 1644 to ye 29 of May 1645 is One thousand three hundred eighteen pounds seven shillings 4d. - - - -	1318	07	04
2. Item ye receipts of St. Antons since ye 16 of December 1644 is one hundreth sevinteine pounds 9 shs. 3d. - - -	0117	09	03
3. Item for pennelties and extraordinar contributions ye said tyme two hundreth twentie five pounds 14 sh. 4 -	0225	14	04
4. Item yr is soume receivit be him in ane littell book fra ye 21 of Julie to ye 9 of Augt. 1645, inclusive Two thousand two hundreth and one pounds 4 sh. 0d. - - - - -	2201	04	00
Item receavit be him for ye pands Two hundreth and neinteine Pound 13sh. 0d. -	0219	13	00
Item receavit for reliefe of 4 prisoners in Argier qlk remanit resting five hundreth fourscore eight pounds 7 sh. 0d. - - - - - -	0588	07	00
Mair receavit from Archibald Walker his relief Tow hundreth twentie four pounds 6/0	0224	06	00
Item left be ye defunct to ye Kirk Session one hundreth threttie three pounds 6 sh. and 8d. - - - - -	0133	06	08
Item receavit by him fra Jon Moubray and George Secker of Stipends for Whitsonday 1645 Seventie two pounds 8s. 8d. - - - - - -	0072	08	08
Mair receavit from George Neisbet of Stipends for Whitsunday 1645 - - - -	0030	00	00
The soume of yis wholl preceding charge on both sides comes to - - - - - -	5130	16	03

Discharge.	Lib.	Sh.	D.
Imprimis disbursed conforme to ane particular compt book extends to four thousand nyne hundreth seventie nyne pounds 1sh. 8d. - - -	4979	01	08
Item disbursed conform to an littel book to ye poor wt 337 lib 14; resting to ye said			

	Lib.	Sh.	D.
Thesaurer at ye fitting of his last compts is in all Eight hundreth fowrtie two pounds 10s. 2d. - - - -	0842	10	02
Debursed to ye Deacones from ye 29 Novr. 1644 to ye 29 May 1645 three hundredth sexty four pounds 15sh. 8d. -	0364	15	08
Item Janet Watson and catheren Colvill yr Pensions from Mertimes 1644 to Witsunday 1645 fourtie pounds - -	0040	00	00
To Thomas Boe for 26 weeks is Seventeine pounds - -	0017	06	08
Item Jar. 1645 to Jas. Murray Clerk to ye Synod four pounds 13sh. 4d. - - - -	0004	13	04
The soume of ye Discharge is -	6248	07	06

Soe ye soume of ye Discharge being 6248 Lib 7 sh 6d. and ye soume of ye charge but 5130 lib 16 sh. 3d. there will be resting awand be ye Sessione to Alexr. and John Ruddochs ye soume of One thousand one hundreth seventeine pounds 11 sh. 3d. ... ... 1117 : 11 : 3 for ye qlk soume yei have ye Sessiones band qlk was subt. upon ye 14 day of Julie 1646.

14 *Julie* 1646.—Catherene Robertsone aquavite wife was ordained to pay 1 dollar for hir comon scolding.

21 *of Julie* 1646.—Refers Jenet Steiples to ye bailies to cause banish hir for her scandalous behaviour being a comone loune.

Mr Georg Phin petitioned ye sessione yat it wold please yem to geive him ye whole stipend qlk uyr scoolmrs had befor him, to witt 300 mks; and for ye qlk he should furnishe two able doctors viz ane for Latine and ane uyr for ye Scots scooll, to ye qlk petition ye sessione agreed provyding that he provyd qualified men and first pnt ym to ye sessione befor he admit ym in Service.

21 *of Julie* 1646.—Desyrs Francis Wilkie Alexr. Balfour and William Comrie to speak with Sir Lues Steward, Abercromie, Ladie Pilrig and the Laird of Boghall for yr seats yat yei may pay in ane certaine soume of money for ye benefit of yr seats yei have in our church according as others payis for ye lyke.

28 *Julie* 1646.—This day my Lord Balmerinoch sent ane wryten supplication to ye sessione to be subt be all those of ye Sessione and to be pntit to ye commission of ye Kirke in favor of Mr Jhon Smyth to transport him from Bruntilland to South Leith to be our Minister But ye Sessione wold not subscrive ye said supplication but wold take it to yer consideration till Sonday efter ye efternoone Sermon and yrfor it was ordained yat intimation should be made ye nixt Lords day yat all those of ye Session and wholl neighbours within this whole parioche should conveine ye said Lords day efter sermone to consider upon ye premises and to learne what might be done herein.

(*Note.*—The meeting arranged for Sunday took place in the Session house. The Rev. Alexr. Gibson retired from it "becaus ye present matter in hand concernit himself;" but a decision was delayed until Tuesday, 4th August. On this Tuesday John Moubray acted as preses of the meeting and put the question to those present "whether they would stand to ye former supplication subscrivit be ym to my Lord Balmerinock in favours of Mr Alexander Gibsone or to subscrive the supplication given in be my Lord Balmerinock in favours of Mr Jhon Smyth." The bailies gave no answer because "ye towne of Edr were seeking ye said Mr Jhone Smyth to be ane of yr pastors.")

4 *Agust* 1646.—All ye rest of ye elders and deacons and all ye neibours in ane voce said yat yei wold stand be yr first supplecaone subt be ym to my Lord Balmerinock in favours of Mr Alexr Gibsone; qrfor ye sessione and neibours desyred some of yis meiting to go to my Lord Balmerinock to report ane anser heirof to his Lordship.

7 *Agust* 1646.—Ordains Wm Comrie Thesaurer to pay for Agnes Bell hir cariage (relict of umqll Mr James Sharpe our faithfull late pastor) out of yis towne to Glasgow—40 lib.

18 *Agust* 1646.—Jhone Borthwick was yis day receavit staffman and under bedill viz to hold ye sturdie beggars out of ye towne and to keep a great staffe in his hand and go throw all ye corners of ye towne, cleange ye towne of sturdie and strong beggers and was takine

sworne to be faithfull, for ye qlk he sould have everie week 13s. 4d.

(*Note.*—This is the first mention in the Minutes of this important official whose duty was to expel beggars and vagrants from the town.)

23 *of Augt* 1646.—The Weivers being desired to compeir befoir or Sessione yei cam yis day, and or Pastor and Moderator Mr Alexr. Gibson demanded ym if yei wold len ane of yar laich seats to ye Sessione becaus there were sundrie gentlemen within ye Town who could not have a seat for payment but yei anserit with a refusal seeing yei have only two laigh seats and ye Sessione have got two of their laigh seats alreadie in yr yll and ye cordiners haith gotten ye third so yei could not spare any more seats but or Moderator desired ym to advyse till ye next dyat.

1 *Sepr* 1646.—The qlk day it was advysed to try qr ye covenant of ye 3 kingdoms is becaus it can not be found.

Desyrs Wm Comrie or Thesaurer to cause bring in all ye dealls (yt were Ludges in ye Linkes) and put ym in ye yeard qlk appertains to K. James his hospitall.

13 *Sepr* 1646.—The said day being ye Lords day or pastor Mr Alexr. Gibson did intimat yat no tavern door nor bakers booth be opened upo ye Lords day in no tyme of ye day but at denner and supper under ye pain of censour. Our magistrats were desyred to cause ye drume go throw ye towne to yis effect.

Further yat no master nor mariner louse anchor upo ye Lords day nather to go out of the harboure nather out of ye Roads under ye pain of censour.

15 *Sepr* 1646.—It was ordained yt yr must be a voluntar contributione collectit at ye church door for releife of yose who had yr houses burnt in bristo at ye back of ye potter rawe.

(*Note.*—At this date there was of course no system of fire insurance; but the churches in the district came to the aid of those who suffered such a calamity by collecting voluntary contributions to help them.)

Desyrs or pastor to intimat ye nixt Lords day yat yr be no gadding abroad nor vaging upon ye shoir or streets nor in ye fields in any tyme upo ye Lords day.

13 *of Octor* 1646.—All uyr processes were continued becaus of ye head court yis day and ye sessione must meit ye provost and bailies.

27 *of Octr* 1646.—Desyrs . . . to go ye morne to the counsell of Edr to speek ye counsell concerning ye impost and ye new stent.

11 *Novr* 1646.—The bailies report yat ye Towne Counsell haith ordained Alexr. Downie James Rule Jhone Kinross and James Steinsone to be collectors of ye stent throwe yis toune for ingathering and collecting yrof for the defrying of ye comon burdinges contractit in ye tyme of ye Visitation and ye Bailies James Eilies and David Wilkie will assist ym in collecting yrof.

17 *Novr* 1646.—Desyres our Pastor to make intimation ye nixt Lords day yat ye Sessione be frequentlie convened ye Tuesday thereafter to consider concerning ye affairs of ye Kirke.

Also to intimate yat ye people should cheerfullie pay ye stent Mrs yer stent qrto they were stentit for defraying of the burdinges of ye Kirk qlk was expendit ye tyme of ye Visitatione upo ye publick.

29 *of Novr* 1646.—The said 29 of Novr. 1646 being ye Lords day The wholle Sessione and neighbours convenit efter ye efternoone sermon in our Sessione houseand all unanimously did subscrive ane supplication to be pntit befor ye commissione of ye Kirk in favor of Mr Alexr. Gibsone to concurre with us in supplicating My Lord Balmerinoch to present ye said Mr Alexr. to ye parsonage of Restalrig The tenor yrof followeth.

To the Right Reverend Moderator and remanent Commissioners of ye General Assemblie The humble supplicatione of ye Parochioners of South Leith 4 Decr. 1646.

Wee believe yat ye earnest endvours of yr Petitioners anent ye settling of Mr Alexr. Gibson our pnt pastor in ye place of or Umql Minister Mr James Sharpe is not unknowne to your (W) (*i.e.*, worships) At that tyme my Lord Balmerinoch Patron to ye place was in England wee presented or humble desyre yrin tô the Presbiterie of Edr. who did so far acknowledge ye equitie and pietie of ym that they did willingly favor us with a conjunctione

of yr Ws and desyre to my Lord Balmerinoch the Patron for yat effect zit nather yn nor since notwithstanding the many addresses we have made to his Lo: in yat business have we receaved any satisfactorie ansr.

WHEREFORE now Right Reverend wee being certainlie informed that 6 of Decr. 1646 is the day appoynted for takine of this business to yor consideratione yat yow may proceed yat way which is expected from so wyse and pious a judicatorie Wee wold humblie entreat that first of all ye would be pleased to looke back upo the steps qrby this businesse hath maid this long journay to yor (W) hands Whilst we were instant about yis purpose upo ye grounds contained in or supplicatione to ye presbyterie of Edinr. and lykways in our Petitione to my Lord who is Patron while another is presented to the Presbeterie without our knowledge efterwards in ye end of ye last Sessione of ye Presbetrie immediateely preceding ye general assemblie There is a reference of it made for ye Presbetrie to ye General Assemblie our Parioche never being acquainted with it, and last of all it is remitted from the general Assemblie to yor (W) Wee never yet being heard concerning that other presentatione or in any of yose references for all or interest, the lyk qrof was never (in or opinion) practised in ye Kirke of Scotland since the abolition of Episcopacy.

We desyre humblie in ye Second place yr W wold be pleased to make ye just construction upon ye sinciritie of or intention which is noways to incruch upo the right of Patronag wh we desyr may be kept always inviolate and which will appear ye more evidently If for thirdlie you will seriouslie take to hairt ye extraordinary condition qrin or congregatione stands by reason of the said visitatione yat hath been upo us, which as it hath set us on Work in yis matter so much concerning so wee are hopfull it will draw out yr concurrence with us to my Lord Balmerinoch ye Patrone for settling our Minister Mr Alexr. Gibsone For, First, is yer anything more equitable and just than for one who was equalie engaged in that same hazardouse service for ye good of our souls to succeed him who smarted under the danger Wee see not Trulie how we could be answerable to God if we should not shew ourselves so far sensible of yis as willinglie to contribute all our endeavours to yis purpose; Wee are encouraged Secondlie to pursue this desyre by yat precedent at our doors in ye Kirk at Halyradhouse For yr ye Town of Edinr pntit Mr George Leslie cheerfulie in ye like case without any of those long drawn scruples about ye Weakening of ye right of patronag in case yat ye Minister placed by ye town before sould be presentit by ym afterwards.

Thirdlie we would have your W acquainted with ye intollerable burdinges of our Kirk which by this late Visitatione is so far brought under yat not onlie all ye means we had belonging to it are alreadie expendit and exhaustit for defraying of yat public debt brought upo us yrby but moreover we lye still under ye burdinge of Seventein thousand mks or yrby wh will amount to ye Stock of ye Stipend allowed by the patrone WHEREFOR we hope yat yor prudence forseeth upon yis ground ye prejudice any other may sustaine that sall be pntit since we are altogether dissable from doing yat duty at yis time which we have done to former Ministers and withal the great danger our Kirk and Poor may fall under if at yis present ye crossing of our just desyres sould discourage our people from contributing to ye relieving of our Kirk from yis heavy burdinge of Debt that it lyeth under.

Wee are now in a pretty good way by the direction and assistance of our Minister Mr Alex. Gibson toward ye relieving of our Kirk but trulie it is to be feared yat if yis business be not rightlie carried ye work sall cease and all sall be undone That wh is alreadie said doeth aboundantlie difference ye natur of yis question you have now befor yor hands concerning the settling of our Minister from ye ordinare questions betwixt Patron and People Wherefore Wee are bold again to beseech your W may be pleased to interpose yr authoritie with my Lord ye Patrone that now at last he may give way to our just and pious desyres wh we sall reckon to be a favour binding us to pray for his Lo: happiness and to ye end no mis-imagined prejudice his right and power of presentatione can sustain yrby the onlie obstacle haith yet stood in ye way may hinder his Lo:

We do by these presents declaire to yr W our willingnesse to allow of it in the greatest latitud of any ye lyk right in the Kingdom and sall in all submission be readdie further to evidence yis as yor W sall be pleased to enjoyne us but ye pnt caise being singulare and be itselffe Wee hold ourselves bounde to tak yat course which may most conduce to Gods glorie and standing of our Kirk and lest wee should wearie yor W Wee onlie add that wtout wh. No respects in ye World could ingeidge us to be so earnest in yis particular Mr Alexr. his pietie his learning his integritie in ye public cause of religion his constant attendance upo his flocke, among whom since ye tyme of his coming amongst us he hath walked as an ensample in all which he hath so approved himself yat none can nor dare except against him in any of these so that we are confident your W will goe along with us in yis course tending so much to ye honor of God the standing of or Kirk and to ye preventing of all inconveniences yat may otherwise fall out And yr answer we humblie crave.

This Supplicatione was pntit be our bailies James Eilies and David Wilkie together with a great number of ye Sessione and ye neighbours upo ye day of December 1646 and was read in ye audience of ye said Commissioners; my Lord Balmerinoch Patrone of our Churche being present.

22 *December* 1646.—Jhone Bowie . . . did agree with ye Sessione to buy all ye dealls of ye Ludges yat are lying at ye back of ye kirke dike in cumulo and will pay in to ye Sessione at demand 20 lib for ye 100.

(*Note.*—Bowie's Close is named after this John Bowie.)

5 *Januare* 1647.—James Mathisone miller in ye cannon milles declared that he saw James Heagie housband to Catheren Christie die in ye battle at Killsyth; ordains ye said Catheren to gait ane uyr witness and yrefter shee sall have ye benefit of mariag.

19 *Jan.* 1647.—Jhone Borlands promised to pay ye pryces of the 265 bolls of meall qlk remains of ye 500 bolls undelyvered.

2 *Feby.* 1647.—The qlk day (efter incalling upo God) the Bailies James Wilkie and David Wilkie Cornelius Ainslie and John Moubray Elders were desyred to speak with ye Donator concerning Umql John Whyte money qlk is according to James Seatons compt book three thousand four hundreth and threttie eight pounds 3438 libs yt some yrof may be payit now and efter qt maner ane discharge may be drawn up for ye securitie of ye Sessione.

9 *Feby.* 1647.—The Session desyrs James Eilies and David Wilkie to delyver to Wm. Comrie Thesaurer of ye Stent money ye soum of Two thousand and two hundreth mks to give to Mr Henry Mauld and donators of ye goods and gear soumes of money qlk appertained to Umql Jon Whyte in pt payment of three thousand four hundredth and threttie eight pounds that ye Sessione is due to ye said Umqle Jon qlk was taken out of his house ye tyme of ye Visitatione be ye Sessione for ye use of ye public As also ye Session desyre ye Bailies to pay ye rest of ye said soume to ye said donators of ye reddie money yei can have of ye Stent money that is collectit or to be collectit at any tyme heirafter.

2 *Marche* 1647.—The Sessione desyrs ye mrs of King James his hospitall to take in Margt Porteus with her two childrene and to be sustained yrin according as poor anes are sustained in ane almes house.

To renue ye act concerning penny brydells made ye 6 of febr 1645 viz that whosoever sal be contracted and maried sall befor yr mariag day consigne 10 lib or ells ane pand worth 10 lib that yr brydell dinners sall not exceed 12s for ilk persone man and woman overhead and in caise yei failzie yr 10 lib sall fall into ye box for ye use of ye poore.

7 *March* 1647.—This day Captane James Crawfurd with sundrie neighbours in yis congregaone compeared and in pns of ye Sessione declared yat Mr Jhone Weir minister at Carlucke was presentit be my Lord Balmerinoche to ye presbyterie of Edr to be minister of South Leith and Restalrig.

(*Note.*—Mr Gibson, the second minister, withdrew from the meeting while the Session were deliberating upon "yis grave and weightie purpose," and the Session, with many expressions of grief, concluded that "they could see no hop that my Lord . . . wold grant yr request." This ended the movement so heartily undertaken on behalf of Mr Gibson.)

Upon ye 8 of Marche 1647 the whyt box was oppened in presens of . . . and there was found in it for privie contracts and privie mariages and for scolding and flyting and breaks of ye sabboth from ye 18 of Agust 1646 to ye said 8 of March 1647 the sowme of 150 lib 11s. 8d.

(*Note.*—A feature of the Session Meetings at this time was the number of women brought up for "scolding and flyting," giving clear evidence of the rudeness of manners and coarseness of life.)

30 *Mch* 1647.—The qlk day (efter incalling upo God) the wholl Session and neighbours mett and everie ane in particular being demandit if yei wold acquiese to my Lord Balmerinoch his presentaone . . they all in ane voice ansrit that yei wold acquiese yrto therefor it was thought expedient yat . . sould go to my Lord Balmerinoch to declare ye will of ye Session and neibours herein.

18 *Aprill* 1647.—It was desyred yat ye magistrats should cause make intimaone throw ye towne be tucke of drum yat no heritors or landlairds sett (*i.e.*, let) houses within yis congregaon to any stranger and new incomer who haith not a lawful testimonial under ye pain . . .

(*Note.*—A stranger entering the town intending to stay for any time required to have with him a testimonial from the Kirk Session of the parish whence he came. Without this passport he was in the eye of the church a scandalous person, or as we should say now, an undesirable alien; and he was promptly compelled to leave the town. One author writing at this date says that no scandalous person could live unknown, no scandal could be concealed in all Scotland, so strict was the correspondence between the various ministers and congregations.)

9 *May* 1647.—The qlk day (efter in calling upon God) the neighbours ye Traffickers petitioned ye Sessione yat it wold please yr wisdoms to let ym repair yr Seats heigh and laigh in yr own Ill qlk Petitione was read and heard but the Sessione continued an answer till efter ye communione.

The Session this day all in ane voice did condescend and agree yat Mr Alexr. Gibsone our pnt pastor sall have for his paines ye time of ye Vacancie of ye place of his colleg Umqle Mr James Sharpe (qlk was almost 2 years) the soume of Eight hundreth merks 800 mks and yat because of his extraordinare paine he took ye time of ye Visitatione and yat over and above his ordinare Stipend of twelf hundred merks.

Ordains John Broyerstones to give ye deall money yat is in his hands to ye Thesaurer Wm. Comrie as also ye rest of ye contribution yat was collectit for ye distressed people of argyl to ye end the Thesaurer may pay the foresaid 800 mks to our Pastor with all diligence.

12 *May* 1647.—The qlk day Mr Rot. Lowrie minister in Edinr. did preach and did admit Mr John Weir to be minister of Leith and Restalrig who was receavit be ye Presbeterie according to order and after his admission the Presbeterie sat yis day in or Sessione house.

(*Note.*—Mr John Weir, A.M., was first minister from this date until 1652, when he was translated to Borthwick.)

18 *May* 1647.—Sir William Douglas of Glenbervie, knyght, petitioned ye Sessione for a seat to him selffe and his ladie; the Sessione continues ane anser till efter the comunione.

(*Note.*—Sir W. Douglas was a Baronet of Nova Scotia, created by King Charles I.)

13 *June* 1647.—This day the Session thought it expedient yat the sermons upo ye week day sould be the ane upo ye twisday and the vyr upo ye fryday . . . . and yat ye Sessione day sould be upo the twisday and if neid bee somtymes also upo the fryday.

15 *June* 1647.—It was thought fit yat ye Sessione sould think upo some publick place qr ye repenting seat sall be sett.

(*Note.*—Another minute refers to "altering ye repenting seat" in the church.)

Joan Weir gave in a petition to grant her the favour and licence to licentiate her to hold a scool for teaching of young children to read and to shewe (*i.e.* sew), qlk petitione was granted to her upo yis conditione yat shee sould teach no male children farther nor ye single catechise.

6 *Julie* 1647.—William Mairtan, trumpeter, compeard and becaus he was lying lyk a drunken beast in ye open way and vieue of many people ye last Lords day therefor he was ordained to make his publick repentance before ye pulpitt.

20 *Julie* 1647.—This day Session unanimouslie condescendit yat Mr John Weir our Pastor sould have for transportatione of him out of Carlouke to Leith Two hundreth merks 200 mks.

Desyres Mr Johne Weir our Pastor and Mr John Wardlaw, Laird of Alden to speak with my Lord Balmerinoch qt his Lordship think the most fitting place to have his seat in ye church and report ye next dyat.

27 *Julie* 1647.—Our Pastor Mr John Weir and Mr Johne Wardlaw, Laird Alden, reportit this day yat yei had spoken with my Lord Balmerinoch to see where his Lo: thought it fittest to have a Seat in ye church and my Lord rendered his thanks to ye Sessione for yr care and diligence heirin but his lo: hard yat some of ye neighbours in the Toune took it hardlie thinking yat his Lordship would prejudice ym of yr libertie and propertie of their Seats in ye church Therefor his Lordship said he had no will to have a seat in any place of ye church yat wold give any discontent to ye neighbours in ye toune.

It was thought fit that our two pastors Mr Johne Weir and Mr Alexr. Gibsone, Mr John Wardlaw and Wm. Ramsay Francis Wilkie and Wm. Banckes Elders should meit heir in ye Session house upo Thursday at 10 hours to think upon a Seat for my Lord Balmerinoch.

3 *Agust* 1647.—The neighbours ye maltmen in Leith gave in yr supplicaone entreating yr w. not to place ye repenting seat before yr loft seeing it would distract ym in hearing of ye Word of God.

(*Note.*—The Minutes show that the repentance seat was worn out, and there was a proposal to erect a new one before the maltmans loft, *i.e.*, the present organ gallery. The old "stool" had been placed beside this loft and opposite to the pulpit which stood on the south, near to its present site. Those unfortunates who offended the Kirk Session were compelled to do penance by standing at the church door as the congregation assembled, and when the minister entered the church they were led by the beadle to the steps of the "stool" which they ascended, and there they stood during the three or four hours of the services. It must have caused considerable distraction for the congregation to watch the appearance and behaviour of their neighbours in disgrace, and no doubt smiles and whispers passed from one to another as well-known faces appeared in the place of ignominy.)

It was ordained that ane long table sould be made and sett befor ye pulpit and formes yrto yat some of Sessione may sit yr upo ye Lords day.

6 *August* 1647.—Our Pastor Mr John Weir being desyred to speak with the Baxters for a Seat to my Lord Balmerinoch he reportit yis 6th of Augt. that they will in no wayes grant ane in propertie to My Lord nayr in yr Loft nor in yer Laigh Seats to have a Seat to sit in But yei are willing to lend my Lord a seat for his Lady and his familie to sit in and will repeare ye same upo yr own expenses.

17 *August* 1647.—Ordains to warne all these of ye Sessione house ye nixt Lord day efter ye efternoones sermon for certain considerable causes and in particular to think upon a Seat for my Lord Balmerinoch and ye altering of ye repenting Seat.

(*Note.*—The difficulty in finding a seat for Lord Balmerino shows how great was the demand upon the space of the church.)

Ordains to provyde a locke for ye great door at ye back of ye pillar betwixt ye pulpit and ye Skippers Seat.

24 *Agust* 1647.—It was ordained that ye people sould have respect to yose of ye Sessione, Elders and deacons, and that they cary ymselves ordinatlie befor ym and in particular everie ane to labor to knowe yr owne elder and deacone in yr severall quarters and have a dew regard unto ym qn yei are reproved be yr elders and deacons for yr sins.

(*Note.*—The minister and session of this age have been likened to a tyrant and his council, who made the greatest lord in their district stoop to their authority and hasten to obey their terrible decrees. A proper spirit of respect, not to say fear, on the part of the people had therefore to be kept alive from time to time.)

Ordains yat no begger qtsoever be suffered to stand at ye porche ye tyme of ye collectione becaus yei prejudge ye collections at ye church dore.

21 *Sepr.* 1647.—The Sessione ordained our thesaurer to receave from our Bailies the money yat was gottin for ye gear yat was put in ye almes house efter ye infectione being cleangit

and qlk had no owners qlk sowme will extend to 500 lib.

(*Note.*—These were the belongings of people who had died of the plague without leaving any heirs.)

8 *Octor.* 1647.—Our Bailies James Eilies and David Wilkie giftit to our Kirk Sessione yis day ane silver Laver for the use of ye Kirk of South Leith.

Ordains that ye silver warke, viz.:—The two great bassins, the four great coups and yis laver be delyvered to Jhone bowie pnt thesaurer as also ye lining clothes yat appertains to ye kirke.

(*Note.*—This handsome Laver or Basin made of hammered Silver is the baptismal basin of the Church, and continues to be in constant use. The rim, which is flat, bears this inscription—"Gifted to the South Kirk of Leith by James Rucheid and James Elles and David Vilkie Bailies 1647.")

30 *of Octor.* 1647.—It was statut and ordained yat ye Sessione sould be everie twisday efter sermone and ye contracts to be upo ye frydays efter sermone imediately and at ye uptaking of ye parties names ane of or pastors salbe pnt with ye thesaurer and ye clerck and yat ye thesaurer receave and keep ye pands in tymes coming and make compt yrof.

(*Note.*—The uptaking of names for proclamation was known as the marriage "contract," and a pawn or pledge had to be consigned as security that the marriage would be duly solemnized.)

Desyrs Francis Wilkie . . . to agree with ye gardners for ye windmill yard.

9 *Nov.* 1647.—George Gordan gave in a charge of horning to ye sessione preceptors of St. Anthons charging ym to infeft Wm Downie in ye arrable land qlk appertained to umqll Adam Thomsone gardner to his comprysing qrof ye sessione are superiors, ordains to suspend ye charge.

(*Note.*—This minute shows the old method of Scots law by which a creditor attached the heritable property of a deceased debtor.)

9 *Novr.* 1647.—Desyres or Pastor Mr John Weir Johne Bowie Thesaurer and Mr David our Clerk to speak with Hempsfield for ye thousand merkes and bygone rentes awand by him to ye Sessione.

Also desyres ym to go to ye Counsell ye morne for ye Impost.

16 *Novr.* 1647.—Continues zit yt Mr Johne Weir and Jon. Bowy speeke with Hempsfield for ye 1000 merks also concerning ye Impost.

The Bailies reports that my Lord Provost of Edinr. desyred to see ye Clerkes book to try how mony years are awand (*i.e.*, owing) of ye Impost.

30 *Novr.* 1647.—Forsameikle as heirtofor ye hospital compts (*i.e.*, accounts) haith been wryttin in pieces of paper and not in a compt booke Therefor it was ordained yis day that yr be two bookes bought to insert and registrat ye said compts yrin *ad futuram rei memoriam* qrof ane to be keepit be ye maisters of ye hospital and ye uyr to be keepit be ye sessione and yr succeiding clercks to wryt ye same.

(*Note.*—The Masters of the Hospital have often been charged with loose book-keeping. In addition to the fault here referred to it is said that the endowments of the Hospital were gradually alienated by the Session to members of their own body. It is certainly the case that although the Hospital owns large tracts of land in the town, covered with valuable buildings, the feu-duties received from these are merely nominal. A more enlightened administration would have made of King James' Hospital a wealthy institution similar to the Heriot Trust or the Trinity Hospital in Edinburgh. About this time the Hospital was appropriated for the reception of aged women.)

14 *Decr.* 1647.—Desyres John Bowy or Thesaurer to agree with William Tocke glasine Wright for ye glassing and reparatione of ye Windows in ye Kirk.

20 *Decr.* 1647.—The Bailies reports yat ye Impost is in James Rea his hand to be delyvered to ye Sessione.

Ordains to visit ye grammer and musick scoolls so soone as posseblie may be.

28 *Decr.* 1647.—Jon Gray Baxter petitioned ye Sessione yat it wold please yr wisdoms to cause pay James Reid 18 libs for some dealls yat he and Francis Wilkie bought from ye said James at ye directione of ye Sessione qlk petition was granted yrfor entreats our Magistrates to cause pay him off ye Stent money.

Upon ye foresaid 28 of Decr. James Grahame was takine on again to have a cair of the Town seeing yr are some new outbreakings of ye plague, and should have for his paines 10 mks.

8 *Feby.* 1648.—Desyrs ye minister Elders and deacons who were upo ye sessione in anno 1645 so many as are alive to subscrive the Discharge for ye impost receaved for ye said yeare 1645.

8 *Febr.* 1648. — Jhone Bowy our pnt thesaurer was yis day elected and choysen bailie of St Anthons for to hold courts and collecting in of ye few duties and yearly rentes yat appertains to our Sessione and preceptors of St Anthons Desyrs yat yr be a court of St Anthons holdin heir in ye sessions house upo fryday come 8 dayes for collecting in of ye few mealls (*i.e.*, rents) forsaid etc.

15 *Feby.* 1648. — Desyres Johne Bowy Thesaurer to settle and agree with William Tocke Glasin Wright for minding and repairing ye glass Windows of or church pntlie and to be with him William Ramsay Johne Gray Johne Moubray and Andro Archibald to assist him heirin.

22 *Febr.* 1648.—The qlk day (efter incalling upo God) Jon. Bowy Wm. Ramsay, Jon Gray and Andro Archibald reported yat yei had settled and agreed with William Tocke Glasine Wright qrfor ye Sessione desyres Jon. Bowy to pay him according to yr agreement for mending and repairing ye glasine Windows for yis year of God and this day it was condescended upo be both parties yt yr sould be ane Act of Sessione insert in or Register of ye conditions betwixt ye Session and ye said William in tymes coming qrof the tenor followeth :—

At ye Kirk of South Leith the twentie two day of Febr. i a/vi fourtie eight.

The qlk day it was agreed and finallie concordet betwixt ye Ministers Elders and Deacons of ye Sessione of South Leith for the pnt on the one part and William Tocke Glasine Wright in Edinr. in ye uyr part That is to say The said William Tocke binds and obliges himself to make mend and repair all ye glasine Windows in or Church of South Leith according as they stand in need and sall uphold ye same yearlie wind tight and water tight during his agreement with ye said Kirk Session and yr successors For the qlk The said ministers Elders and Deacons binds and obliges ym and yr successors to pay yearlie to ye said Wm. Tocke (or uyrs in his name haveing his Warrand and conditions being observed in his part) The soume of fourtie marks Scots money at two tearmes in ye yeare (by equal portions) Wittsonday and Mertimes beginning the first tearmes payt at the feast and tearme of Whitsonday in anno ia/vi fourtie nyne yearis In Witness qrof this act is subt be Mr David Aldinstone Clerk in name and at command of ye Sessione and ye said Wm Tocke at Leith day and yeare forsaid.

David Aldinstoun.
Wm. Tocke.

22 *Febr.* 1648.—William Trotter and umqll James barnes who were bailies in anno 1646 gave in yis day to or sessione ane great silver coupe for ye use of or Kirk.

The sessione desyred . . . to go to Wm. Trotter and to ye freindes and aires of ye said James barnes and render ym Thanks for ye same.

(*Note.*—The church possesses two handsome old silver cups with the following inscription round the lip of each—"Dilexi Jehova Decorum Domus Tuae South Leith." Round the foot of the one mentioned in this minute the following words are engraved—"Givin to the Sout Kirk of Leith be William Trotter and James Barnes bailies in tyme of pest anno 1645." These cups are still passed from hand to hand on Communion Sundays. Bailie William Trotter belonged to the Mortonhall family.)

7 *March* 1648.—Intreats our Pastor and Jon Bowy or Thesaurer go to ye Town Counsel to speak my Lord Provost concerning ye Stent impost and St. Anthons court.

Mr Johne Weir or Pastor desyres yat a not sould be made in our Register yat he proponit to ye Session that my Lord Balmerinoch desyres to have a seat biggit before ye baxters leach seat for his Lo : and his Ledie.

9 *March* 1648.—Our pastors Mr John Weir Mr Alexr. Gibson and John Bowy or Thesaurer reported yat yei had been at ye Counsell of Edr. concerning ye stent impost and St. Anthons Court but yei continued to make full report till ye Sessione be more frequentlie conveined.

30 *March* 1648.—Mr John Weir Mr Alexr. Gibsone or pastors and John Bowey or pnt Thesaurer reported yat they were at ye Towne Counsell of Edinr. speaking concerning ye old and new stent for relief of the burdenges of or Session qlk was contracted ye tyme of ye Visitatione of ye plague in anno 1645 as also concerning the Impost and St. Anthons Court but because they did not weel remember qt was ye Counsells answer they were desyred to goe againe and spake my Lord Provost Bailies and Council of Edr. concerning ye premisses and report ye next Sessione day.

Desyres yat our Pastors Mr Jhone Weir Mr Alexr. Gibsone or Pastors Jhone Moubray and Jon. Bowy Thesr Elders to meit with two of the Town Counsel to visit our great charter of St. Anthon concerning our right and privilege yrof but it must not be visited by the whole counsel.

The foresaid 30 of March 1648 Mr Cornelius Ainsley of Doffintoune petitioned ye Session for ye long seat qrin ye Laird of Abercromie sits in for ye pnt seeing ye said Lairde is to go out of yis Toune now at ye tearme of Witsonday nixt, and qt the Sessione will require of him for ye same according to ordour he wold be willing to pay ye same qrupo the whole Session did condescend and agree that ye said Mr Cornelius shall have ye benefit of ye said Seat efter ye term of Witsonday next during yr will he paying for his entrie yrto accordinge to his own discretione as also to pay yearlie for ye same ye soume of . . . .

13 *April* 1648.—The Session did condescend yis day to give to Andreas ye Chirurgane (*i.e.*, surgeon) for healing a breane seek Englishman and some outwards in his body ye soume of 10 lib ye Masters of ye Trinitie House will give als much and ye Magistrates will give als much.

The Session desyres that every Elder and Deacon go throwe yr several qrters and try qo are willing to contribut for a collection to sustain 3 Men for ye holding out of ye Sturdie beggars out of yis Towne.

20 *April* 1648.—Or Pastors and Thesaurer reported yat yei had spoken my Lord Provost Bailies and Counsall and yat my Lord Provost gave order to our Bailies to collect in ye old Stent, as for a new Stent it is continued till further deliberatione.

Ordains yat non ly in ye church yard upon ye Lords day and in special in tyme of divyne service under ye paine of censour.

The Session desyrit that Mr David Aldinstone or Clerk sould diligentlie search and seek out a real compt and note of all ye debt yat is awand to the Kirke that ane certain notice may be taken yrof.

27 *Aprill* 1648.—Desyrs yt yr be no Laich wakes at all in speciall now in tyme qn ye plague is beginning to breack out agane.

The Sessione desyrs or Thesaurer to fournishe ye poor distressed people visited wt ye plague both in ye Links and Towne.

The Sessione ordains Mr Georg Phine Scoolmr of ye Gramar Scoole to give ye bairnes ye vaccants (*i.e.*, vacation) till ye first of June in speciall for fear of ye Infectione.

27 *Aprill* 1648.—Desyrs yat intimaone be maid yat qo so ever shall fall seek suddenlie yt yr freinds shall acquaint ye elders and deacons of yr qrter qr yei dwell.

Intimaone was maid upo ye 30 of Aprill yt yr sould be no frequent meittings and mariages and baptisme feasts and yt yr be no Laickwakes.

(*Note.*—These minutes show that the plague was making its appearance again, but fortunately it was checked in good time. "Wakes," or "lykewakes," as they were termed, are a Catholic custom not now known amongst Presbyterians. Formerly they were common amongst all classes, the object of the watch being to guard the dead bodies from evil spirits, and to protect them from mutilation by rats, etc. In some districts the groups of watchers occupied the long hours in drinking ale and wine with which the chamber was plentifully furnished. In other districts musicians were hired to provide music and dancing for the company. A pauper's lykwake lasted only until the carpenter could prepare the coffin; but for a wealthy person the function might last for two or three weeks.)

21 *May* 1648.—Ordains a Meeting to be nixt Thursday onlie concerning ye Seats of ye Kirk.

25 *May* 1648.—Desyrs Jhone Kelles and Jon Bowy to speek with Alexr. Spence qo (*i.e.*,

who) regulats or clock and rings or bells qt conditions he will have for ye same yearlie.

25 *May* 1648.—Desyres Jhone Gray to speak with ye Smithes for ye Seat qrin ye Ledie Pilrig sits.

To advyse further concerning a Boucker to be builded in place of ye chyres within ye bodie of ye church.

Jhone Bowy is desyred to speek with ye Bailies concerning ye old stent.

15 *June* 1648.—The Session desyres our Pastor Mr John Weir to speak with my Lord Balmerinoch to learne if is Lo: if it wold please his Lo: to have ye roume of ye four seats at ye East End of ye Kirk before ye Skippers laich Seat to big a seat yr for his Lo: and ladie and family.

(*Note.*—The Trinity House owned the sittings in the east gallery and underneath it.)

2 *Julie* 1648.—Thé qlk day (efter in calling upo God) yr was a certaine complaint given in to ye Sessione of Florence Jamieson and James Steinson and yr wifes committing a ryot upon ye said 2 Julie in ye Kirk (being ye Lords day) before ye forenoone sermone striving about a Seat qlk complaint ye Sessione took into yr consideratione and ordained ather of the parties to give in yr complaints and informaones ye next dyat and in the meintyme yei were referred to ye Bailies to inhibit ym to sit in yat Seat till ye mater be desyded be ye Sessione. Ordained yat there be a Session upo Tuysday nixt for yis effect.

(*Note.*—These unseemly squabbles about seats have been already referred to. This one is called a riot. It may be that the orderly pew system originated from the need to prevent such occurrences.)

4 *Julie* 1648.—The whilk day (efter in calling upo God) the Thesaurer Jhone Bowy reported yat Captain William Ramsay Jon Moubray and he had aggreed with Alexr. Spence yat regulates our Clock and rings ye Bell, yat he sould have yearlie for to mend repair and uphold ye Clock and ringing of ye Bell ye soume of 60 lib Three score pounds Scots.

6 *Julie* 1648.—The qlk day (efter in calling upo God) ye Processe concerning Florence Jamieson and James Steinsone and yr wifes was continued till farther in ye meantyme it was desyred yat yei and yr Wifes sould meit ye morne efter sermone heir in ye Sessione house and our Pastor to meit with ym and some of their friends to ye end ane agreement may be made betwixt ym.

Desyrs Jon Moubray and Jon Bowy to speak Mr James Murray concerning Jeane Blackadour's houses left in legacie to ye Sessione.

13 *Julie* 1648.—Continues Florence Jamieson and James Steinson yr Process till Sunday efternoone in ye meantyme againe desyred ye Bailies to Inhibit ym ye Seat to sit in it till decysione yrof be determined be ye Sessione qulk ye Bailies promised to doe.

Desyres or Pastors and Mr John Bowy our pnt Thesaurer to speak with ye Bailies concerning ye Impost.

20 *Julie* 1648.—Ordaines to alter ye Locke of Margt Foules her Seat seeing Harry Cunninghams Wife haith ane uyr key yrof and comes in to ye Seat at her own hand and prejudges ye gentill woman of her own Seat.

(*Note.*—This refers to the Lady of Pilrig. *Vide* minute 26 June 1645.)

27 *Julie* 1648.—The Sessione ordains yat in all tymes coming any who sall give up yr names (to intimat yr bands matrimoniall) privatlie in yr owne houses and comes not to ye Session house upo ye day and tyme appoynted for yat effect yen and in yat caise they sall pay to ye poor 10 mks; also who so desyres ye benefit of mariag aff a preaching day and altho upo a preaching day if it be not imediately efter sermone they sall also pay to ye poor 10 mks.

(*Note.*—The Session fixed a time for taking in proclamations and for marriage ceremonies. At this date marriages were solemnized in church on the day of the weekly lecture. The hour of this service was nine o'clock in the morning, and those who had children to be baptized, or who were to be proclaimed or married, had to make it convenient to attend then. Here the Session are seen enforcing their regulations; and upon any exception occurring to suit particular individuals they stipulated for payment of a fine to represent the price of the favor conferred. It was considered to be too distracting for the ministers to be in readiness to attend "every several time and diet that parties married will probably incline to.")

1 *Augt.* 1648.—The Bailie Jhone Marioriebank and or Thesaurer reports yat it was ye Will of ye Counsell of Edinr. yat our Magistrates sould cause lay Souldiers upo yose qo are awand ye old Stent to be quartered ay and whill they sould pay ye said Stent yat is due be ym to ye Session desyres Jon. Bowy to give the Rolls of ye names of yose who are awand yr Stent to David Forbes for incollecting of ye samen who is appointed Collector yrof.

1 *Agust* 1648.—The wch day (efter incalling upo God) The sessione ordained yat in all tyms coming the Sederunt of ye Sessione sould be marked and insert in yis or Register that notice may be taken of ye absents and yrfor begins yis day Sederunt . . . .

(*Note.*—This Minute is important. There is no list of those attending the meetings of session prior to this date. From this date lists have been kept, and the practice down to the present time is to record in the beginning of the Minutes the sederunt or list of members present at the meetings.)

15 *Agust.*—Ordains ye bailie of St. Anthons to hold a court upon fryday nixt for ingathering of rents of St. Anthons.

27 *Agust* 1648.—Ordains to intimat ye nixt Lords day yat who so ever (in all tymes coming) shall be found at home upo ye Lords day in tym of divyn service and keeping companies in neighbours house (and keeping yr mrs bairns) shall be lyable to censour unles yei abyd quyatlie at hom in yr maisters houses.

12 *Sepr* 1648.—The qlk day was no Sessione.

(*Note.*—The Minutes do not throw much light on the war still being waged by Royalists and Covenanters. At this date Cromwell was driving the Royalists out of England, and the rival armies were facing each other outside of Edinburgh. Neither of them were averse to an armistice on fair terms, and the General Assembly affecting to arbitrate between them fixed South Leith Church as a place for conference. In the church therefore early in September 1648 a conference was held between the Covenanters and King Charles' party. The meeting was attended by a distinguished company of officers and noblemen. The papers of "the noblemen and officers in arms at Haddington," with the reply which they received from "the noblemen and gentlemen in command of the forces which had come from the west, and were now at Leith," will be found printed in Mr Campbell Irons' History of Leith.)

This 17 of *Octor* 1648.—The old bailies Jhone Pearsone and Jon Marioribankes gifted to ye poor box now at yr outgoing twentie three rex thalers (66 lib 14s 4d) for qlk ye sessione gave ym thankes.

(*Note.*—The thaler or dollar is frequently mentioned in the minutes. The Leg or Leggat Dollar, named from Liege, was equal to £2, 16s. Scots; the Rix dollar to £2, 18s. Scots.)

24 *Octor* 1648.—Mr Jhone Weir posed everie ane of ye Sessione severalie who were pnt if any of ym did disclaime ye lawfulnesse of ye late ingadgment yat went in to Eng Land yei ansred that yei disclaimed it and thought altogether unlawfull and wold not maintain it.

(*Note.*—The "engagement" is frequently referred to at this time. This name was given to an agreement entered into between King Charles and the Scottish Commissioners in December 1647, by which the former was to establish Presbyterianism in England and the latter to restore the King to his throne by force of arms. Following on this, arrangements were made to fortify Leith, and to drill the army on the Links. The Scottish people, however, were opposed to the "engagement," as its terms violated the Solemn League and Covenant.)

24 *Octor* 1648.—Thomas Steward, Drumer, petitioned ye Sessione yat it wold please yr worships to give him als much mony as wold buy ane new drum for ye service and use of yis South congregatione of Leith; qlk petitione was granted, provyding yat he left ye said drum for ye use of ye towne if ather by death he be removed or if he go out of yis towne and that it man be called ye sessions drum and not his, qlk he faithfullie promised to doe.

29 *Octor* 1648.—James Young talyour being visitor yis day declared that yr were sindrie persons carying kaill and herring in yr hands throw ye street in tyme of divyne service befor noone qrupon it was ordained that Intimaone sould be maid ye nixt Lords day yt none sould be found selling kaill or hering or milke or carying watter from wells to yr houses in no tyme of day upo ye Lords day nor drawing of Liquor to societies or pittie brewings befor 12 hours at even under ye paine of censour yat non sould pretent ignorance yrof.

21 *Novr.* 1648.—Recommends to ye Thesaurer to agree with Andrew Scot Wright for

repairing of ye Pulpit and laich seat about ye Pulpit and also with David Sinclair Smyth for his Account.

(*Note.*—A "laich" seat was placed about the pulpit on which sat petty offenders who came up to be rebuked by the minister; also parties who were about to be married and parties who brought their children for baptism. On this seat also the brides sat on the Sunday following their marriage. This was their "Kirking," a phrase still in common use.)

6 *Decr* 1648.—The qlk day there was a visitaone of or South Kirk of Leith be the presbeterie of Edr.

(*Note.*—The presbytery paid frequent visits to the church, and still come down for an annual inspection. In 1648, however, the visit of the presbytery was rightly enough called a "visitation." First of all the ministers had to give proof of their pulpit gifts by preaching each from his ordinary text. They were then removed and the elders were questioned about their diligence and manner of life. After this inquisition the members of session were themselves removed and heads of families interrogated concerning the life and conduct of each elder and deacon, the attention they gave to their quarters, their visits to the sick, their treatment of strangers bringing testimonials, their zeal in investigating scandals, etc. The presbytery also enquired into other matters, such as the state of the church and churchyard, the communion vessels, provision for the poor, the session clerk's books, etc. These enquiries, however proper and useful, at times encouraged a spirit of criticism, and gave opportunities to vent bad feeling, so that frequently they had mischievous results.)

10 *December* 1648.—The qlk day being ye Lords day Intimaone was maid of ye renewing of ye league and covenant.

Also yr was intimaone maid yat yr is a fast to be upon thursday nixt and upon Sunday yrefter befor ye sweiring and subscriving of ye covenant.

14 *Dec.* 1648.—The qlk day being thursday a solemne day appoynted for fasting and praying before ye renewing of ye covenant these soldiers maid yr publick satisfactione befor ye pulpit for being in ye unlawfull engadgment viz:—(Here follow 7 names).

The qlk day a general intimaone was maid be Mr Alexr. Gibsone or pastor yat no persone (man or woman) lying under Kirk censour whether maried or unmaried presum to cum ye nixt Lords day to hold up yr hands and sweir ye covenant or subscrive ye same and seing yr is a Sessione to be holdine ye morne let ym come and yei shall be hard.

17 *December* 1648.—The qlk day being ye Lords day the covenant was sworne both by man and woman by holding up yr hands, but first Mr Alexr. Gibsone or pastor read ye acknowledgment and gave a public rebuik to ye wholl congregaone who are guyltie of back slyding but more speciallie to some of our sleders (*i.e.*, carters) who were pressed to cary some cariages to ye unlawfull ingadgment being designed by standing up upon yr feet in pns of ye wholl congregaone.

Then the Covenant was sworne both by man and woman standing up upon yr feet and holding up yr hands to God.

At length intimaone was maid of ye dyats for subscriving of ye covenant viz. the sands qrter (*i.e.*, quarter) hill qrter and Tolbuith qrter upon Moonday—the Lees qrter Restalrig and Craigend upo Twisday efter sermone.

Upon ye 24 of December 1648 Intimaone was maid yat yei qo hath not subscrived ye covenant yat yei come upo Twisday efter sermone to subscrive ye same.

(*Note.*—After the siege of Berwick Cromwell was conducted in triumph to Edinburgh where he and his troops were received with joy as the deliverers of the church. The Solemn League and Covenant was renewed with Cromwell in many towns including Leith. The "Engagement" was proscribed; its supporters were excluded from all share in public affairs until they were reconciled and restored to the church. Meanwhile they were compelled to do solemn and public penance for their violation of the covenant in taking up arms for the king.)

2 *Januar* 1649.—The qlk day Mr Alexr. Gibsone declared to ye Session yat ye Presbeterie had appoynted the whole leach Seats betwixt ye Pulpit and ye Pillar be wast it for my Lord Balmerinoch and his familie but ye Sessione answered they thought that my Lord desyred only ye two eastmost seats yrof nixt ye pulpit.

Also ye said Mr Alexr. declared yat ye Presbeterie haith ordained ye repenting seat sould be placed qr it was befor to wit before ye Maltmens loft at ye North end yrof and above

ye cordiners Seats and the entrie yrof to com throug ye Wivers loft.

(*Note.*—The place of the repenting seat was where the baptism font now stands.—*Vide* Minute, 3rd August 1647, *supra.*)

Thirdlie he proponit yat it was thought expedient be ye Presbytery yat Mr Jhone Weir sould have ane ann now presentlie.

The Sessione condescends yat ye said Mr Jhone sall have 400 mks for ane graituitie and ann with this provision yat he give a sufficient discharge to ym for ye samen, and yat no ann sall be sought again qn it sould please God to remove him ather by death or by transportatione.

2 *Feby.* 1649.—The Session ordained yis 2nd of Febt. 1649 that yr sall be a long seat builded in ye bodie of ye church, yat is before ye traffickers, Baxters, Tailzours and Coupers yr illes and yis long seat to be devyded in so many pewes as ye Sessione sall think fit for accomodating sundrie gentlemen within yis parioche and heritors heirin qo has no seats for ye pnt.

9 *Febr.* 1649.—The qlk day ye Sessione finding ye act anent ye drumer upo ye 24 Octr 1648 ordains ye same to be cancellit qlk sould not have been insert in yis or Sessione booke; as also ye Sessione ordains yat in all tymes coming ye acts and ordinances of ye preceiding day be read nixt day following befor any uyr processe be begune.

25 *Febr* 1649.—Jhone Holmes younger . . . being warned (for playing at ye gouffe ye last Lords day in tyme of divyne service) were called compeard and being severalie interrogat yei ansred and confessed yat yei were playing at ye goufe, There censour is continued till ye nixt dyat; all yir are young boys.

(*Note.*—This criminal offence was discussed at several meetings, and in the end the Session came to a very sensible decision. The boys "were recomended to yr parents to correct ym and any of ym qo are scollers to be corrected be yr maisters.")

20 *March* 1649.—The qlk day ye Session unanimouslie did agree to ye motion anent the matter and manner of ingathering and collecting ye Ministers Stipend.

Desyres James Seatone and Alexr. Downey to acquaint ye Skippers heirwith: George Sinclair and George Campbell to acquaint ye Maltmen Jhone Gray and James Bell to acquaint ye Treds Jhone Brotherstones and Thomas Banks to acquaint ye Traffickers and gentlemen.

30 *March* 1649.—The qlk day Mr Robert Douglas Mr Andro Fairful Mr Mungo Law, Mr Jhone Smyth Mr George Leslie and with ym my Lord Provost of Edinr. Sir James Stewart and James Ruchhead bailie yr and our owne two Ministers Mr Jhone Weir and Mr Alexr. Gibsone did convein in our Sessione house be order of ye Presbetrie To consider upon a fair and lawful way how our Ministers Stipends sould be got in—Mr Rot. Douglas was Moderator of yie Meeting qo declared to our Session and neighbours (qo were conveined for yat effect) that it was ye ordinance and will of ye Presbeterie yat in all tymes coming no money sall be taken out of ye Poor box to pay ye Ministers Stipends qlk has been a great abuse in tymes bygone.

Therefor ye Session and neighbours were desyred to take ye premises to consideration and to provyd yr Ministers Stipends after a more fair and lawful way.

Qlk ye Session and neibours promised to doe, and to yis effect promised to meit amongst yemselffs to consider upo ye premises.

(*Note.*—The stipends of the ministers could not be collected owing to the prevailing dearth of money. They varied from time to time as the minutes show. The stipend of the first David Lindsay was £200 Scots.)

10 *April* 1649.—The qlk day Mr Jhone Weir and George Sinclair reported this day to ye Session yat they had agreed with Andro Scot Wright to build ye new Seats in ye south syd of ye bodie of ye Kirke allong where ye chyres stands and ane bouckar before ye said Seats, ye said Andro finding wanscot and all other tymber requyrit yrto with Nailles and Workmanshipp for whilk he sould have Tow hundreth and fourtie merks.

10 *Aprill* 1649.—James Boag did supplicat ye sessione to quyt him his ferme (*i.e.* rent) of ye 5 aickers and halfe of land holdin be him of

ye mrs of ye new hospitall for ye year 1648 becaus all yt was upo ye ground was eatin up be ye wast countrie armie, his supplicaone was remitted to ye mrs of ye hospital.

(*Note.*—*Vide* Minute 12 September 1648, *supra.*—The engagement caused the western peasantry to rise in arms. They were drilled by General Leslie and his officers on the Links of Leith, and we may suppose that this minute refers to the ground at Seafield belonging to the Hospital.)

15 *Aprill* 1649.—The qlk day being ye Lords day the new Session was takin sworne and admitted in face of ye wholl congregaone whose names are hereafter insert—Bailies Patrick Thomsone and Jhon Liddill.

(*Note.*—Here follow the names of the elders and deacons, three of each for each of the Sands quarter, Hill quarter, Tolbooth quarter, and Restalrig and Craigend; six of each for the Lees quarter. Among the elders were John, Lord Balmerino, and Sir Wm. Douglas of Glenbervie.)

20 *Aprill* 1649.—The Elders and deacons are appoynted to sitt at ye green table befor ye pulpit both upon ye Lords day and week dayes at sermons.

20 *Aprill* 1649.—It is appoynted that ye Gramer Scooll sould be visited upon Moonday nixt at 7 houres in ye morning.

(*Note.*—The visitors were the two pastors, the two bailies, and six of the Session, including Sir Wm. Douglas.)

20 *April* 1649.—Mr Alexr. Gibsone this 20 of April 1649 did intimat to our Sessione that the presbyterie of Edr. are of yat mind and purpose with consent of the Lord Balmerinoch to cause erect ye Kirk of Restalrig and to dyvyde from ye Kirk and congregation of South Leith.

(*Note.*—The kirk of Restalrig had been in ruins since 1560. The pious work of re-building it, which was here entertained, was not accomplished until two centuries later, and it still remains undivided from South Leith.)

22 *Aprill* 1649.—The Sessione all with ane consent did condescend and agree that the peice waist ground in ye churchyard upo ye north syd of ye church bewast ye porch and contigus yrto in all tymes coming shal be ye proper buriall place for yr pastors, wyfes, and children.

(*Note.*—At this date the principal entrance to the church was probably by the north porch, a doorway opposite to the pulpit, which stood very much in the position where it stands now. This minute provides for a ministers' tomb outside the north wall of the church, and immediately to the west of the porch. The ministers previous to this date were no doubt buried within the church, which was deemed to be the most respectful treatment to persons of quality. The burial place here mentioned was probably reserved for ministers until the beginning of last century, when the present ministers' tomb was prepared at the extreme south-east corner of the churchyard. Upon the restoration of the church in 1848 a considerable mass of bones was carted to the seashore, but a scandal arose, and the town was placarded with bills denouncing this desecration, in consequence of which the bones were collected together, brought back, and buried in a grave in the churchyard. This incident is remembered by people still living in the town. When the church was re-seated in 1893 a quantity of bones was again removed and buried in the churchyard.)

11 *May* 1649.—Marion Wilsone and Beatrix Meason residentars at ye wast port of Edr. being apprehendit be or searchers upo ye Lords day ye 6 of May 1649 in tyme of divyne service coming out of ane English shippe and being both drunk were both put in prisone. . . . Therefor ye said Beatrix Measone was put in ye jogs wt a paper upo hir head declaring hir faults and did stand yr till 6 hours at even.

27 *May* 1649.—It is ordained yat ye new Seats be put up in ye bodie of ye Kirke immediatlee efter ye Communion without any further delay yrfor Andro Scot Wright is appoynted to have ym in reddinesse.

26 *June* 1649.—There was a meiting of Sessione to consider upon a convenient way how yr may be a frequent meiting at ye sermons upo ye week dayes.

It was ordained yt intimaone be maid yt yr wilbe a weeklie examinaone and yat yr wilbe two dyats everie week.

6 *Julie* 1649.—It was ordained that or thesaurer sould give the four officers 4 thalers for yr attendance upo ye sessiones business everie sessione not of dew but of gratuitie.

6 *Julie* 1649.—Mr Georg Phin Scoolmr demitted his charg yis day to be any longer scoolmr seing it haith pleased ye Lord to call him to ye functione of ye calling of ye Ministerie.

(*Note.*—At his away going Mr Phin received his year's stipend of 200 lib and a gratuity of 100 lib.)

13 *Julie* 1649.—It was thought fitt that the burial place appoynted for or ministers yr wyfes and yr successors sould be barricaded with tymber.

20 *Julie* 1649.—The sessione gives ordour to Jon Bowy yr late thesaurer to chang ye light money yt he haith for good mony.

(*Note.*—The Kirk Session poured their collections into a box which was only opened at certain stated periods. On such occasions there was always found to be a considerable proportion of bad or light coins, and apparently there existed a section of the people who kept their bad coppers for the purpose of giving to the Church. These light coins were changed or sold, and were readily purchased by people who would return them again to the Church, thus making a somewhat ludicrous hypocrisy of their charity.)

5 *August* 1649.—The qlk day (efter incalling upon God) being ye Lords day ye Session and neighbours mett frequentlie Mr Alexr. Gibsone Moderator and they unanimouslie condescendit yat a supplicaone sould be drawn up betwixt and Tuysday nixt concerning a fair way for settling ye Ministers yr Stipend qlk supplicatione sould be presentit to ye Presbetrie and yrafter to the Committee of Estaits but befor it be presented ye Sessione and neighbours are to meitt for heiring of ye said supplication read.

5 *Agust* 1649.—It is appoynted yat ane of or bailies and ane of or ministers now and yen upo ye Lords dayes with some of ye sessione go out of ye kirk and apprehend any yei can find vaging out of ye kirk.

10 *Agust* 1649.—The Act anent ye Engagers is to be intimat ye nixt Lords day be or minister qo preaches as also two Acts of parliament to be read be ye precentor.

12 *Agut.* 1649.—The qlk day (efter incalling upon God) being the Lords day and Mr John Weir Moderator. There was a meeting of ye Session and neighbours, and in yr audience ye Supplicatione appoynted to be drawn up (upon ye 5 of August instant) was read and considered qrto all unanimouslie both Sessione and neighbours condescendit and did approve ye samen also my Lord Balmerinoch Wm. Purves Doctor Ramsay and som uyrs of ye barony of Restalrig did approve ye said supplicatione except swa farre yrof as concerns Restalrig.

24 *August* 1649.—The day foresaid Mr Andro Fairfoul cam as commisssioner from ye Presbyterie declaring to ye Session yat it was ye Will of ye Presbeterie yat our Ministers Stipend sould be paid *sicut ante* but not out of the poor box Ordains a meeting of ye Sessione and neighbours to be upon Sunday next to consider heirupon.

14 *VII ber* (*i.e.*, September) 1649.—The qlk day Sir Lues Steward Sir Hary Nisbet petitioned ye Session for a Seat seeing my Lord Balmerinoch haith gottin his seat with syndrie uyr seats be ye ordinance of ye Presbeterie The Session desyred ym to go along ye church and see qt seat (yat is vacant) pleased ym best qlk they did and efter yei had visit yei cam in again to ye Sessione and declared that ye heigh seat bewast ye pulpit pleasit ym best qlk seat sometyme pertained to General Ruthven and qr Glenbervie sits for ye present.

The Minister Mr John Weir promised to speak to Glenbervie concerning ye premises to ye end they may have ye benefit of ye said seat Also yis day some seats in the Church were rented vizt, three seats aftermentioned :—

1. The two seats qr Jon Moubray and Margt. Boag sits - -	13	6	8
2. Georg Campbells seat - -	06	13	4
3. Major Jon Elphinstones seat -	06	13	4
The Westmost long seat before ye Coupers seat - - - -	16	00	00
The long seat dividit in two before ye Tailyours - - - -	36	00	00
The Two Seats bewast ye Bailies seat and before ye Traffickers seat - - - - -	20	00	00
qr James Steinsone and Florence Jamieson seat - - - -	10	00	00

The wholl seat qr Jhone Kello sits qrof he haith a part yrof at the head - - - - - 13 06 08

7 *VIII ber* (*i.e.* October) 1649.—The qlk day (efter incalling upo God) being the Lords day post meridiem the sessione and neighbours did meit to consider a scoolmr to ye gramer scool. They thought it expedient yat they sould be thinking heirupo and be ryplie advysed against fryday nixt.

12 *VIII ber* 1649.—The qlk day the sessione and neighbours mett to tak up a list of yose qrof ane is to be choysen scoolmr and Mr Alexr. Gibsone was desyred to tak a particular privie tryal of Mr Christopher Irving yis day in his awin chalmer ex tempore and to report.

14 *VIII ber* 1649.—The qlk day (efter incalling upo God) the sessione and neighbours mett to heir Mr Alexr. Gibsone his report concerning Mr Christopher Irving his abilitie and qualificaone and Mr Johne Weir moderator for ye tyme did interrogat ye said Mr Alexr. qo faithfullie declared yat he was sufficiently qualified for the said charg to be or scoolmr.

The wholl neighbours and sessione being Intterrogat if yei were content or if yei had anything to object they anserit that they were weel satisfied and had no thing to object, qrupon ye said Mr Christopher was called in and Mr Jhone Weir declared that ye sessione and neighbours are content with him.

Moreover it was declared to him that he sould have ye conditions yat any scoolmr in ye said place had befor qrwith he was content Qrupon he was pntlie admitted and receaved in signe and token yrof he tooke ye wholl session and neighbours be ye hand particularlie and he promised to enter at mertemas nixt.

19*th VIII ber* 1649.—Mr John Weir reported yat ye Counsel of Edr. had given order to collect in or Impost and yat or Thesaurer should collect ye same and yr Bailies heir in Leith will concurre with ym for collecting yrof.

26*th VIII* 1649.—The qlk day the Session was desyred (be Mr Andro Fairfoul as Commissioner from ye Presbeterie) to acquaint ye neighbours concerning yr Ministers Stipends viz.:—James Gibsone to acquaint ye Skippers Ninian Seatone to acquaint ye Maltmen Francis Wilkie to acquaint ye Treds and James Kyd to acquaint ye Traffickers and they to report upon Twysday.

30 *Octor.* 1649.—The qlk day (efter incalling upo God) there was a Meeting of ye Session to heir ye report concerning Mr Jhone Weirs 400 mks qt is ye neighbours answer concerning it as also to try those qo did not communicate qt was the reason yrof.

And first James Gibson from ye Skippers Ninian Seatone from ye Maltmen, James Kyd from ye Traffickers, Andro Scott from ye Trades They all in one voice answered (being particularly interrogated) That ye neighbours will upon no condition condescend to pay the 400 mks to Mr Johne Weir, but as it was done befor yat is to be takin out of ye Poors collectione.

16 *Novr.* 1649.—Mr Jon Weir and Georg Campbell are desyred to speek to ye Comittie of State concerning ye breaches of our kirk yard dick (*i.e.*, dyke) yat is broken downe be building ye fort yrthrow yt reparaone may be maid out of ye publick charges.

(*Note.*—The churchyard dyke was again, and now for the last time, being converted into a fortification for the town. The people were attached to the monarchy, and therefore opposed to Cromwell, whose army was marching into Scotland. In course of time this wall became reduced to a mere ridge of earth and formed a part of the burying ground.)

30 *Nor.* 1649.—Jonet Bennet being warnet compeard and becaus some persons gave in some depositions of witchcraft aganst hir yrfor she is referd to ye civil magistrat.

The Session desyres ye baillies to discharg Alexr. Lowes, Musitian, to hold any scoolle be him sellffe ather for teaching of musick or any uyr kynd of instructione but yat he cum to Mr David Aldenstone pnt precentor and clerc his scooll and yr to teach ye musitians and to be doctor in his vulgare scooll according to ye contract drawn betwixt ye said Mr David and him.

The baillies are desyred to cause remove ye woman qo hath ye daft lad out of yis towne

and congregaone seeing shee is a vagabound stranger and is suspectit to be a witch.

Upn ye 2 *of December* 1649.—Intimation was made from ye pulpit That ye Sessione and whole Heritors within ye congregation sould meitt upon Friday nixt concerning a way for maintaining or own poor and for removal of strang and sturdie beggars out of yei parioche.

Intimaone also was maid yt ye Gramer scooll is taken up agan.

14 *December* 1649. — The Elders and Deacons are desyred to go throwe yr several qrters to try qo will willinglie contribut to Mr Jhone Weir his 400 mks, and qt yei get to give it to Mr David Aldinstown Clerk of ye Session and he to make compt yrof to ye said Mr Johne.

21 *December* 1649.—The qlk day Mr Andro Fairfoul cam to our Sessione (having commissioun from ye Presbeterie) and demandit qt yei had done concerning yr Ministers yr Stipends ansr was mad yat yei were using diligence concerning ye same but what effect it wold take they knew not. They were earnestlie advised be ye said Mr Andro to use all possible diligence yrin.

21 *December* 1649.—It was reportit yt it is ye Judgment of ye reverend brethren of ye presbyterie yat Jonet Bennet who is suspect of witchcraft sould be sighted and tryall maid for ye witches marks.

(*Note.*—Compare Minute 14 March 1644 *supra*, and the article on witchcraft which appeared in the May number of the Church Magazine. Witches were believed to bear the devil's marks on their bodies, for upon receiving the vow of fidelity the devil handed to each witch a piece of money, and put his mark upon her. For the discovery of the mark the Session had recourse to the "pricker" or "witchfinder," who stripped the victim and thrust his needles into suspected parts until he located the mark. The statement of the "pricker" that he had found the devil's mark was held to be conclusive evidence against the party accused.)

18 *Januar* 1650.—The Sessione appoynts Jon Moubray Jhone Kello Georg Campbell and Jhon Gray to meit upo Wm. Tock Glazier his compts to modifie ye same because he seikes exorbitant prices for repairing of ye glass windows.

18 *Januar* 1650.—The qlk day efter ye efternoone sermone ye new Sessione did convene and everie Elder had his deacon apoyntit unto him.

Jhon Lord Balmerinoch proponit yat he could not allwayes attend ye meittings of ye assemblies and presbyterie (being ruling elder) Therefor his Lordship intreated ye sessione to choyse ane other ruling elder to attend ye forsaids meittings in his absence qlk desyre was granted and they did choose Mr Jon Wardlaw of Abden to be ruling elder to attend ye meittings of ye Assemblie and presbyterie in absence of his Lordship.

Also this day George Campbell *de novo* was chosin kirk thesaurer and bailie of St. Anthons for yis year 1650.

1 *Feby.* 1650.—Rot. Mathesone humblie besought ye Sessione to take 20 lib from him in full contentatione of ye 50 lib he is awand to ye Sessione for dealls and trees and to free James Graham of his cautiounarie qlk petitione ye Sessione hard and grantit ye same seing he is a poor man and not able to pay ye total soume.

Upon ye 10 of Febr. 1650 Intimation was made yat yr will be a meitting of ye Presbeterie Sessione and neighbours upo Tuysday next efter sermon to condescend upo a way for payt of ye Ministers Stipends.

17 *Febr.* 1650.—Intimaone was maid yt ye mr (*i.e.*, master) of everie familie sould buy ye Larger and Lesser Catechisms, Confessione of Faith and Directorie for family exerceise.

Also intimaone was maid yt yr sould be no promiscuise dancing, man and woman to gether.

10 *Mch* 1650.—Intimaone was maid of ye Earle of Abercorne his excomunicaone for papistrie; also ye Earle of Kinnul his excomunicaone for revolting aganst ye Kirke and Kingdome.

Also intimaone was maid of some fugitive witches out of ye parioch of Carridene quhose names and markes of yr bodies were mentioned and if any person kend any of ym or qr they were yat yei delat ym to ye bailives.

10 *Mch* 1650.—Ordains to intimat yat non go out of ye church ye tym of ye sacrament of baptisme and befor ye blessing.

26 *Mch* 1650.—It was appoynted that or Thesaurer and or Clerck sould buy all ye acts of ye Generall Assemblies from ye year 1638 to ye year 1649 inclusive and cause bynd ym in a book for ye use of ye sessione.

31 *Mch* 1650.—Intimaone was maid yt yr is a fast to be ye nixt Lords day for sundrie causes and in particular for a blessed conclusione betwixt or King and or Comissionars qo haith maid yr addresses shortly to his Majtie for yt effect.

9 *April* 1650.—Mr Andro Fairfoul this day cam to ye Session (being desyred be ye Presbyterie) and declarit That it was ye Will of ye Reverend Brethren of ye Presbytery of Edr. that Mr Jhone Weir or Pastor should be payed be our Kirke Thesaurer out of ye Kirk box (as it was befor) for all byrun tearmes preceding ye term of Whitsunday next to com in yis instant year of God ia/vi fyftie as also ye said tearme of Whitsunday in doing qrof yat nather ye kirke Session nor ye neighbours in yis toune of Leith sould ever in all tymes coming be lyable to pay any part of ye said Mr Jhone his stipend nor his successors seing it is paid yearlie by the Lord Balmerinoch out of ye Teinds of Restalrig The Sessione reverenced ye desyr and Will of ye Presbeterie and did agrie to ye said desyr to fulfil ye same upo ye condition foresaid and ye said Mr Jhone gave a discharge for ye same and specified therein the conditioun above mentioned.

(*Note.*—The sources from which the stipends of the two ministers were paid seem not to have been made definite up to this time. From this Minute it was settled that the first minister should be paid from the teinds, and this came to be the practice. Following upon this arrangement, the four incorporations became responsible for the stipend of the second minister.)

30 *Apl* 1650.—Everie deacone of ye session are desyred to have a note of ye poor in yr owne quarters and qt everie ane of ym sould have weeklie and yrefter to com to ye thesaurer and gait yr pensions from him and to delyver it to ye poor in yr owne quarters.

It was ye humble desyre and earnest requeist of Sir Wm Douglas of Glenbervie and Mr Jhone Wardlaw of Abden with some uyrs of ye sessione to have ane evening Lecture and prayers three nightes in ye week viz Moonday, Thursday and Saturday at even but yis desyr was ansred with silence.

12 *of May* 1650.—Intimaone was maid yt yr will be thanksgeving upo Weddinsday nixt for ye late victorie in ye north—Ja Grahame's overthrow.

(*Note.*—This thanksgiving was held to celebrate the defeat at Carbisdale on 27th April 1650 of James Graham, the great Marquis of Montrose. After the battle, the Marquis was taken prisoner, brought to Leith about this date, and conducted to Edinburgh to be executed.)

Also ye said day Intimaone was maid that ye new paraphraise of ye psalme book was to be begunne to be sung upo wedinsday nixt.

(*Note.*—The intimation on this Lord's Day is very interesting as it enables us to fix the exact date upon which the metrical version of the Psalms was introduced and first sung in South Leith Church. It was in this year that the present metrical version or "paraphrase" of the Psalms was printed for use in public worship, and it was to this period also that we owe our Confession of Faith and Catechisms. The paraphrases, now so called, *i.e.*, those appended to the Psalms, were not introduced until a century later.)

25 *June* 1650.—The qlk day Marie Caire Relicke of Umqll John Logan of Coustoune petitioned ye Session for a seat qrin Andro Ramsay sat qlk is be east ye Bailies seat and next yrto qlk is before ye Tailyours laich seats.

30 *June* 1650.—Intimaone was maid yat yr be non found vaging (*i.e.*, walking) upo ye streets efter ye efternoon sermon upo ye Lords day nather any Tavern doors open nor any found drinking in tavern houses nor aill nor bear houses under ye pain of censour and for redresse heirof ye ministers with ye bailies elders and deacons are to visit and to go throw ye streets for searching if any sal be found vaging or drinking in houses etc.

2 *Julie* 1650.—The Elders and Deacons are appoynted to visit yr quarters and also to tak notice of yose persones qo are poor and are not able to sustain quartering of souldiers upo ym They are desyred to visit all at once becaus

sum removes from ane qrter to ane oyr in ye tyme ye elders and deacones are in visiting.

7 *Julie* 1650.—The warning to ye Kirk of Scotland was red be or pastor.

(*Note.*—This was "a seasonable and necessary warning" issued by the General Assembly on the subject of the war.)

7 *Julie* 1650.—The result of Jon Bowie his compts the tyme he was Thesaurer Vizt from ye 8 of Octor 1647 to ye 16 of March 1649 as or compt book bears and which sould have been fittit and subt. at ye said tyme but was not fittit nor subt till ye 20 of June 1650.

The totall soum of his charg during ye said tym excepting ye Stock of 1687 lib 3s 4d is four thousand nyne hundredth five pounds eighteen shillings tenne penneyes - - -	4905	18	10
Whereof yr is to be rebaited 277 lib 7s. 2d. yat is yet resting in Wm. Comrie his hands of ye old accompts since he was Thesr. to ye Kirk - - - - -	0277	07	02
Swa rests of ye charg upo John Bowy the soume of Four thousand sex hundredth twenty eight libs 11/8. -	4628	11	08
The soume of ye discharge is five thousand seven hundreth fiftie thrie pounds seven shillings - - - -	5753	07	00
Item he gave back of light money the soume of Two hundreth eighteen pounds -	0218	00	00
Mair a piece of Gold givin back qlk was not good a sextein merk piece - - - -	0010	13	04
The soume of ye Discharge is five thousand nine hundreth four score two pounds and 4d.	5982	00	04
The wh soume of 5982 libs 00s. 4d. being compeared with his charg yr is resting to Jon Bowy the sum of ane thousand three hundreth fiftie three pounds eight shillings 8d. -	1353	08	08
The Stock was ane thousand six hundreth eighty seven pounds three shillings 4d. -	1687	03	04
Whairof to be deduced that is resting to Jon Bowy as is above specified - - -	1353	08	08
So yr will be resting be ye said Jon Bowy to ye Kirk Session ye soume of three hundreth threttie three pounds fourteen shillings 8d. - - - -	0333	14	08

This compt was calculated and subt. be ye Auditors yrof Viz. Mr Jon Weir Mr Alexr. Gibsone or Pastor Jon Moubray Mr Cornelius Ainslie Wm. Black Johne Gray Baxter Jon Aikman elders and Mr David Aldinstoun or Clerk upo ye 21 of June 1650, as or compt book yrof at mair length bears.

Da Aldinstoun Clerk.

To help to mak up ye Stock agane are these soumes following viz:—

Imprimis Jhone Bowy rests as the conclusion of his compt beires the soume of three hundreth threttie three pounds 14/8 - - - - -	333	14	08
Item yat is debursed of ye Stock upon ye reparation of ye church and Tolbuith which is to be gotten agane out of ye first end of ye Impost money eight hundreth fourtie ane pounds seventeen shillings -	841	17	00
Item resting be Wm. Comrie of old compt since he was Thesaurer Tow hundreth seventie seven pounds seven shillings 2d. - - - -	277	07	02
Item of light money and ane ill piece of gold ye soum of Two hundreth twenty eight pound thretteen shillings 4d.			

qlk is changit in good moneys to ye soume of Ane hundreth fourscore two pounds qlk is in Mr David hands - - -	182	00	00
Summa is - -	1634	18	10

7 *Julie* 1650.—There was no Session holdine from ye 7 of Julie 1650 until the 26 of December 1651, be reasone of the great troubles and warrs betwixt Scotland and England. The Scots armie lying in Leigour (*i.e.*, leaguer) in Leith and about it, and after the defeat at Dunbar the ministers and most part of all ye honest people fled out the toun for fear of ye enemie.

(*Note.*—This Minute begins a new era in our history, and indeed there is no event connected with our church which is so popularly known or discussed as the occupation by Cromwell. Every author who has written upon the history of Leith has expressed views, one way or the other, upon the tradition that Cromwell converted South Leith Church into a stable for his troopers. It will be found that the Minutes are, unfortunately, lacking in details, but while they may not bear out this tradition in so many words, they make it plain that the church was utilized for ordinary warlike purposes. Into the general history of the time it is not possible to enter. General Leslie mustered the Scotch army of 40,000 men on the Links in July 1650; at the end of this month King Charles II. visited the army, and took up his residence for a time in Lord Balmerino's house at the foot of the Kirkgate; on 2nd September following Cromwell gained the battle of Dunbar, and marched upon Edinburgh and Leith. He subjected the latter town to a monthly assessment, and after his return to England General Monk, his lieutenant-general, maintained a large garrison permanently in Leith, which was the headquarters of the Cromwellian Executive in Scotland. Cromwell's difficulties in Scotland arose almost entirely through the clergy, who were firmly attached to the cause of the monarchy. No doubt this fact explains the harsh treatment meted out to the Church, a treatment singularly out of keeping with the well-known character of the Protector.)

23 *Novr.* 1651.—The which day was the first day Mr Jon Weir our pastor (immediately efter his returning hom) did convene the scattered congregaone of South Leith together (being ye Lords day) and preached to ym in the Caitchhall at the foot of the Cannongaite.

(*Note.*—The Caitchhall was the Royal Tennis Court just outside the Water Gate, and adjacent to the Palace. The game was then known as "Caitche pelle." It has been suggested that the curious building known as Queen Mary's Bath-house may have been used as a bath-house in connection with the Caitchhall.)

26 *Decembr* 1651.—The qlk day Mr Jon Weir . . . . (four names) mette in the Abay Church and they thought it expedient that so many of the sessione as convenientlie may be conveined that they be desyred to meett and hold session ye nixt Lords day.

And to the end they may be the more convenientlie convened James Walker was admitted beadill for the interim and to warne them etc. till farther.

28 *Decr.* 1651.—It is thought fitte and expedient that the Rolls of or scattered congregatione be takin up in qt paroche soever they be in burgh or land and yrfor these are appoynted as followeth viz.:—

For those in Edinburgh Jas. Meikle and Johne Marre. For those in ye Canongaite George Campbell and Alexr. Taitte. For those in ye west Kirk paroche And. Marre and Jas. Boag. For those in Restalrig Robt. Hog and John Fiddes. For those in Craigend Humphra Mills and Andra Carmichell.

29 *Feby.* 1652.—The sessione desyred Alexr. Taitte ane of or Deacons to go to Balmerinoch (qr my Lord Balmerinoch is for ye pnt) with ane letter from ye Presbyterie and ane other from ye Session concerning Mr Jon Weir or Pastor his Stipend wh he undertook to doe.

14 *March* 1652.—The which day being the Lords day Mr Jon Weir did make public Intimation efter ye forenoones sermone to ye Congregation of South Leith (notwithstand of ye former private intimation of ye Sessione) that Mr Alexr. Gibsone yr Minister was to be transported from ye South Kirk of Leith to the Churche of Aittone within the Presbyterie of Chirnsyd and therefor if any person or persones had anything to object in the contrar let them com befor ye Presbyterie of Edr. the next Weddnesday and make declaration yrof otherwayes ye Presbytery will proceed ordourly in the said transportation.

28 *March* 1652.—The wch day it was thought expedient that meanes sould be used for uptaking of the chartour chist wch is hid in ye church under the ground Therefor it was concludit that all those who were at the hyding of it sould meit upon thursday nixt to consider upo the way how to have it taken up and secured.

At Edr. 1 *Aprill* 1652.—The wch day Mr Jon Weir . . . . unanimously agreed and did appoint . . . for the skippers . . . for the maltman . . . . for the trafecquers . . . . for the treads; to meitt and to dilligently and faithfullie with all conveniencie go about for uptaking of the chartour chist out of the ground wch appertains to the south church of Leith and that it be secured and forthcoming for the right use to wch it truely belongs.

11 *April* 1652.—The wh day (being the Lords day) Mr George Leslie did preach being desyred be ye Presbyterie and efter sermon did make intimation to ye Congregation of South Leith that Mr Jon. Weir was to be transported from the South Churche of Leith and Restalrig unto ye Church of Bothwick within ye Presbyterie of Dalkyth and therefore if any persone or persones had anything to object in the contrar qhy he may not be transported Let ym come before ye Presbytery next Wedinsday and they sall be heard uther wayes ye Presbytery will go on orderly in ye said transportation.

23 *May* 1652.—It is thought expedient that the presbyterie and Sessione sould represent to my Lord Balmerinoch the distressed condition of or kirk and people for setling of a minister there for the scattered congregatione.

The Sessione condescendit that Mr David Aldinstone there clerck sould constantlie attend the presbyterie every presbyterie day to have ane to preach to the said scattered congregation every Lords day till it shall please God to setle there ane actual minister.

(*Note.*—From these Minutes we see that South Leith was now left without a minister. The place of first minister was filled next year, but there was no successor to Mr Gibson until 1657.)

11 *Julie* 1652.—The qlk day Agnes Watsone being warnit was called compeared and being intterrogat what was the reasone she would not marry Robert Miller with whom she was three several Lords days lawfullie proclaimed she ansred becaus it was not his freindes will, nither had shee any lyking to it hirselff.

(*Note.*—The woman in this case would forfeit to the poor the pawn or pledge deposited when the "cries" were given in.)

Octr. 31 1652.—The qlk day Mr George Lesly (being appoynted be ye Presbyterie) did preach at Restalrig to our scattered congregatione of South Leith—it being ye will of ye Presbyterie that the preaching should be yr (because it was within the parioch) and that it sould continue yr till it shall please God to provyde ye church of Leith for yem as formerlie.

13 *November* 1652.—It was mentioned to my Lord Balmerinoch Sir Hary Nisbet and Wm. Purves Heritors of ye Parish yat yei are to give a call for Mr Alexr. Dickson to be yr actual Minister qrto those who were present of ye sessione did consent qrfor Sir Hary Nisbet Wm. Purves Rot. Hog, Jon Fiddes, and Umphra Willis are appoynted to speik with ye said Mr Alexr. Dickson for yat effect and to acquaint ye Presbytery yrwith.

28 *Novr.* 1652.—The wh day (efter incalling upo God) There was a meeting of ye Sessione and neighbours of ye whole Parioche of South Leith and Restalrig efter ye efternoone Sermon (being appoyntit be ye Presbytery) and Mr Georg Leslie did moderat at ye desyr of ye Presbyterie who did intimat to ye said meitting That it was ye will of ye Presbytery to signify unto ym yat yr should be ane established Minister for the Interim at Restalrig in ye Landwart part of the Parish till it shall please God to let them have the South Church of Leith again as formerly (which is now in the power of ye Englishers) and yt it sould be noways prejudicial to ye town of Leith whenever it sould be in its owne capacite for establishing of a Ministerie there as it was in former tyme.

The neighbours of Leith rendered the Presbytery many thanks for the cair they had of them and that they would take the premises

to consideration and come to the Presbyterie the next Presbyterie day for that effect, The names of the Heritors and Neighbours of Leith and Restalrig who were at the meeting were these as followeth :—John Lord Balmerinoch Sir Hary Nisbet William Purves Heritors Anthoine Roswell James Riddell Dr. Ramsay John Gray Baxter Andre Malloch, Ninian Seaton William Wilkie, James Clerk, Alexr. Wright, James Crawford, Robert McConnell, neighbours of Leith, Robert Hogg, Johne Fiddes, James Marre Wm. Rose, Jon Jonston James Boag, James Ferguson, Robert Arnot neighbours in Restalrig with diverse uyrs.

9 *Januar* 1653.—The which day (efter incalling upon God) there was a meitting of ye Session Heritors and neighbours of South Leith and Restalrig and Mr Charles Lumsden Minister of Dudingstone did moderate being appoynted be ye Presbytery ye last Presbytery day.

The which day it was appoynted by this Meitting that my Lord Couper Sir Hary Nisbet Wm. Purves Anthonie Rosewell and James Riddell sould meit upon Tuesday next ye 11 of this Instant at Edinburgh in My Lords Ludging at 10 hours and there to condescend in ane unanimous way in drawing up a formal call to call Mr Jon Hogg from the Church of the Cannongait to the Church of South Leith and Restalrig and to present it to the Presbyterie the next Weddinsday at which tyme the neighbours and Session of yis pnt Meeting promised to be at the Presbyterie to present and back the said call.

At Leith 24 *March* 1653.—Desyred that Mr Cornelius Ainsly Mr Anthoine Rosewell, Wm. Purves sould be advertised to meit and therefter to go to the Deputie Governour to speak with him concerning the Charter chist that it may be opened up and the writtes yrin sichtit that it may be knowne what summes of money ar auchtand (*i.e.* owing) to the session—that they may be sought in from the debtors yrof to help to pay the soummes of money that are auchtand by the sessione to yr creditors to the effect they may desist for a tym to trouble any of the sessioners.

17 *April* 1653.—The said day Janet Henryson caldtoune gave in a bill of complaint against Andro Drysdaill yr qrin shee complaint that he had called hir witch and yt he had caused turne the riddill upon hir to try if she had laid seekness upon his wyfe which being sufficientlie provin by witnesses The session thought it most expedient yat ye matter sould be referd to ye presbyterie and yrfor ordained ye clerck to draw up a formal progresse of ye process and give it into ye presbeterie the next presbyterie day.

(*Note.*—The charm of "turning the riddle" was practised by balancing a sieve upon a part of scissors, repeating some lines and speaking the names of the suspected persons. At the mention of the guilty name the riddle was supposed to turn and the culprit to be thus discovered. It was commonly applied to thieves.)

At Restalrig 22 *May* 1653.—It is reportit from the presbyterie that Andro Drysdaill Thomas Drummond sould mak publick satisfactione before ye congregatione for causing turne ye Riddill upo Janet Henrysone.

29 *May* 1653.—The wch day Andro Drysdaill and Thomas Drummond maid publick confessione (in face of ye wholle congregatione) of that hynous (*i.e.* heinous) and deabollicall sin in turning the riddill according to ye ordinance of ye presbyterie.

From the 5 of June until the 28 of Julie 1653 there was no sessione.

At Restalrig ye 28th Julie 1653.—The wh day Mr Robert Lowrie preached at Restalrig (being ye ordinar place of meitting at Sermone for the tyme) and admitted Mr John Hog to be our Minister at ye South Kirke of Leith and Restalrig and was receavit be ye Session and neighbours and after sermone ye Presbyterie sat at Restalrig at yr Presbyterial Meeting.

(*Note.*—Mr John Hog, A.M., was first minister from this date until 1662, when he was deprived and went to Holland.)

13 *October* 1653.—It was ordained that no bill of complaint should be hard till James Walker our beadill gait satisfactioune from ye partie compleaner both for warning the partie complaned upo and the witnesses viz. 2s. for the partie and 12d. for everie witness warning.

23 *Febr* 1654.—Ordains to meit this day with the Comissioners concerning or hospital.

Also to speak James Murray or agent concerning the mortificaone of ye Lands of Hillhousefield mortified be umqll Georg Thomsone to the new hospitall.

9 *March* 1654.—Jon Main petitioned for modification of the byrun ferme (*i.e.* bygone rent) of that parcell of arrable land lying in new haven wherefor it was taken to consideraone (that seeing it was destroyed in ye year 1650, unlabored 1651, and most part eatin for ye year 1652) that he sould pay for year 1652—£10 and for ye year 1653 £20.

9 *March* 1654.—The which day James Boag late taksman (*i.e.* tenant) of the five acres and ane half of that arrable land pertaining to the new hospitale called King James his hospital in Leith (left be umqll Bishop Lamb yrto) did quit his tak yrof in favours of Johne Riddoch.

(*Note.*—This ground is now Seafield Cemetery. The masters of King James Hospital continue to receive small feu-duties from ground at Hillhousefield, Newhaven, and Seafield.)

13 *April* 1654.—The wch day Thomas Bowy being interrogat if he went throw ye toune upo ye Lords day with ye bell crying for a wandered kowe (*i.e.* cow,) anserit and confessit it was true but he was compelled to do it, by ane Englishe man who wanted the kowe. He is continued till farther tryal, and also for the continual abusing of his wyfe he is ordained to bring ye pulpit cloth and church basin the nixt dyat (*i.e.* diet).

13 *April* 1654.—James Sheills and his wife are admonished to live peaceablie together and if not yr Land Lord hath promised to put ym out of his house.

20 *Ap.* 1654.—Thomas Bowy this day gave in the pulpit cloth and church basin.

8 *June* 1654.—Mr Rosewell proponit that the week dayes sermon may be at Leith but ane anser to his propositione was continued till farder.

15 *June* 1654.—The masters of King James his hospitall are appoyntit to meit with John Main and Patrick Whytlaw concerning the bygon fermes (*i.e.* rents.) of ye mortified land of Hillhousfield to the said hospital.

15 *June* 1654.—The said day these of the Sessione within ye Toune of Leith did all unanimously conclude that the week days sermone sould be within ye Town of Leith in tymes coming where it aught and sould be seeing libertie is granted yrto But Sir Hary Nisbet and Wm. Purves Gentlemen heritors within ye Baronaye of Restalrig for themselves and in name of the rest of the heritors and these of the sessione within ye said Barony did give in a Protestatione in the contrar qrof the tenor followeth.

The Protestatione of the Heritors Feuars Elders Sessioners and Pariochiners of the Barony of Restalrig.

WHEREAS by ane Supplicatione presented to the Presbytery of Edinburgh Wee did jointlie and unanimouslie with the Inhabitants and uyrs of Leith call Mr Jhone Hog Pastor in the Abbey of Holyrood hous to be our Pastor as parsone of Restalrig to serve the cure in the Kirke at Leith within ye Baronye of Restalrig and during the tym of our restraint from the said Kirke within the Barony of Restalrig And siclike be our Protestatione subt with our hands at least by some having warrand and in name of the remanent Heritors Feuars Elders and other Inhabitants within ye said Barony we did protest that in case the said Mr Jhone Hogg sould at any time yrafter be necessitat to serve the cure within the Town of Leith and we or any part of us detained out and not admitted to have free access to and regresse from the divin worship and other discipline or that wee sould in any wayes be prejudged of the right of or Stipend formerlie payit to ye Parsone of Restalrig In which case we did protest to be free of or said call and of all that might follow upon ye samen as ye samen at mair length bears And now seeing that several addresses haith been made to the Governors of Leith and uyrs having power for recovering of our Parioch Church at Leith and as yet the samen haith proven in effectual And that be several Actes als weill of Parliament as General Assemblie The Meitting of ye

Pariochers of Leith is ordained to be at the Kirk within ye Barony of Restalrig And being informed That it is intended by some to alter ye place of public Meitting frome and outwith the Barony of Restalrig into ye said Towne of Leith contrar to the fundamental rights and acts of annexatione qrby the Heritors and others within the Barony of Restalrig wold not only be prejudged of their right to the said Kirke and place of public meitting but also many uyr sad consequences and pretences might arise in relation to the Stipend Whilk to prevent wee undersubscribers for orselves and in nam and behalf of the remanent Heritors feuars elders and Deacons and remanent Sessioners and Pariochiners for us and our Successors do hereby dissent from and protest against any act to be maid by ye Sessione for removing of ye public worship or altering ye place of public Meiting furth and out of ye Barony of Restalrig And protest that the removing yrof or yr meitting with them at any publick meittings or the hearing of the Word and public Worship in any other place shall nowayes prejudge the Interest and right that they have to said South Kirke of Leith parsone of Restalrig nor Stipend belonging yrunto nor shall inferre or add any further right or title to the Town of Leith upon any Ground or pretence qtsomever either to the said parsone of Restalrig or Stipend payit to him out of the said Barony or any Privilege or right of any Meitting of the public Worship to be within or alter from ye said Barony of Restalrig to the said Town of Leith But that our right als weill to the place of Meitting to be wtin the Barony of Restalrig as to the Ministers Stipend shall nowayes be prejudged but it shall be leesome and lawful to us at any tym heirefter (being debarred from the ordinar place of public meitting appoynted be Act of Parliament) aither to seik for redresse of ye samen or if or Minister be detained from us to call ane other Minister as Parson of Restalrig and to the Stipend belonging yrto and to meitt and conveen by ourselves as freely in all respects as if the alteratione of ye place or former call actuating the said Mr Jhone Hog had never been made conform to our former protestatione qrunto we adhear In Witness qrof wee have all subt yer pnts with our hands at Abbayhill and Restalrig the fifteine day of June 1654. Sic subscribitur.

Jhon Lord Couper.
Sir Hary Nisbet.
William Purves.

The said 15 day of June James Stevinsone or Church Thesaurer for himselffe and in name and behallfe of the whole Sessione within ye Town of Leith did protest in the contrar as also all the Elders Deacons and Inhabitants within ye Towne of Leith protested in the contrar wrof the tenor followeth.

WHAIRAS the said Heritors and uyrs of Restalrig by yr protestatione haith dissentit from and protestit against ane act to be made be the Sessione for removing of the public Worship or altering the place of public meitting furth and out of the Barronie of Restalrig To Leith That ye removing yrof shall nowayes prejudge yr interest and right to the Minister and Stipend belonging to him protesting that it shall be lawfull to them (being debarred from the ordinar place of public meitting appoynted by the Act of Parliament) either to seek redresse of ye samen or if ye Minister be detained from them to call for ane uyr Minister as Parsonne of Restalrig and to the Stipend yrto belonging and to meitt and convein be themselves It is anserit first that the samen sould be nowayes respectit becaus it proceeds from Men of a divisive disposition studying to rent a Parioche Kirk and as to the argument adducit as the ground of the protestatione that Mr John Hogg was called to Restalrig there was nothing instructed for proving thereof and albeit he had been called to preach upon the head of Arthours seat if yr had been no uyr convenient place at that tyme (as many other preachers at that tyme did preach out of their ordinar Kirke) yat yat is a very evill argument that he sould aye preach in such a place where he is called to upone necessitie And as to the Act of Session allegit then maid for removing from Restalrig to South Leith It is a mistake for it is onlie ane intimation to all the people to come to Leith to the preaching seeing yei needit no act for removing And qras the parenthesis of the protestatione bears that the protestors being debarred from the ordinar public meitting appoynted by Act of Parliament then to seek

redresse It is ansrit that no respect can be had to that part of the protestatione till it be instructed that they be debarred qlk is nowayes intended but the contrar It was desyred by those who hath comand in Leith that the preaching sould be yere and no Landwart Pariochoners sould be impedit from coming thereto In respect qrof no respect ought to be had to the said protestatione nor no pairt yrof and last the said Inhabitants of Leith do approve the said protestatione The Act of Parliament maid upo the 24 of June ia/vi and nyne years whereby the King and Parliament understanding that the Kirk of Restalrig was then ruinous and the Kirke of Leith has been the place of the conveening of the Pariochioners of Restalrig the space of fyftie years then past as also that it was the commodious part in respect that the Toun of Leith is the greatest pairt of the said Parochine Therefore the King and Parliament did declare ye said Kirke of Leith to be ane parioch Kirke and ordained ye Inhabitants of Restalrig to resort thither as to yr owne parioche Kirke and that the benefice of Restalrig parsonag be disponed to ye Minister serving the cure at ye said Kirk of Leith in all tym thereafter and ordained that the said Kirke of Restalrig sould be supprest and extinct from henceforth and for ever as the said act bears, and therefor the said Elders and Deacones and Pariochiners who are Inhabitants of Leith do protest against the foresaid protestatione and that it may be lawful to them to hear the word preached and Church discipline usit in any part withine the Town of Leith which is within the Barony of Restalrig whereunto the Heritors and others in Restalrig will in nowayes be impedit to come.

Lykways our Reverend Pastor Mr Jhone Hogg did protest that his going into Leith to preach aither week day or Lords day sould in nowayes be prejudicial to him in any part of his Stipend gleib Manse or any other benefice pertaining to the Parsonage of Restalrig nather to be prejudicial to his successors in any poynt and declared that he is most willing to preach at Leith because it is the ordinar place appoynted qr the whole Parochiners of South Leith and Restalrig haith these many years yea almost these hundreth years mett to the Public worship of God.

22 *of June* 1654.—The wch day Mr Johne Hogg did preach at Leith wch was ye first day of preaching yr since the 3 of September 1650 but yr was no sessione and the preaching was in the Tolbuith.

Leith 29 *of June* 1654.—To intimat ye nixt day that the place for meiting of the sessione is to be in ye new hospital called King James his hospital.

29 *of June* 1654.—Mr Johne Hog or pastor and Mr David Aldinstone are appoynted to go to the meitting of the Shyr for our hospital land that it may be maid free of the cesse (*i.e.*, tax).

10 *Agust* 1654 —Ordains to give to Georg Davisone, Mr David his doctor in his scool, £5 4s to pay for his bed for half ane yeare bypast.

17 *Agust* 1654.—The which day it was condescendit unanimouslie by all these of ye Session within ye Toune of Leith (but not by those of the landward part of ye parioch) that Mr Johne Hogg our Pastor sould preach heir in Leith in the new Hospital upon ye next Lords day seeing libertie is granted be those who haith the power in their hands, least (if he doe not preach and tak pnt possessione) he be not permitted efterward but Mr Jon Hogg or Pastor earnestly desyred that ye session might continue for a day till the presbyteries advyce might be sought yrin But the sessione being instant with him moved him to condescend to preach heir in ye new hospital ye nixt Lords day efternoon provyding he and ye people be suffered to com in betwixt sermone to the toune.

31 *Agust* 1654.—Ordained St. Anthonies court or a meitting of some of the session with Jon Gray balive of St. Anthonies to be upo fryday com aught dayes.

7 *Sepr.* 1654.—Alexr. Wright and Mr David Aldinstone are appoynted to speik with Jon Jossie balive concerning the impost.

Wm. Woodcock being sent by the Deput governour Timothie Wilks to ye session desyred yat everie elder and deacone sould go throw yr several quarters to tak up a list of ye poor yrin and to meitt with the Deputie upo Saturday nixt.

5 *Octor* 1654—Wm. Ramsay Wm. Murray are appointed with Mr David Aldinstoune session to visit Wm. Purves and Jon Fiddes there compts. (*i.e.*, accounts) the tym ye preaching was in ye Tower of ye Abbay and in Restalrig and to report ane anser to ye Sessione.

26 *October* 1654.—Mr Jon Hogg Jo. Riddell Jo. Stevenson Anthoine Roswell and William Ramsay are desyred to go to ye controller and Mr Newball for removing of ye Traine out of ye Kirk.

James Ryall and Thomas Banks are appoynted to speik wt Mr Hayine for his removing out of ye hospitall.

(*Note.*—"Traine" probably means artillery. The Church and Hospital were entirely appropriated for storing Cromwell's guns and accoutrements of war. The proximity of the churchyard and the Links give much probability to the tradition that Cromwell's troopers stabled their horses in South Leith Church.)

Thomas Dickson Writter in Edinburgh is earnestlie desyred yis day to cause charge all ye vassalls of St. Anthonis to pay yr feuduties and uyr duties resting be ym to our Sessione Superiors of St. Anthonis To ye end payment may be made be ye Sessione to David Logan of Two thousand merks awand be them to him to ye qlk feuduties the said David is assigned by ye Sessione for uplifting yrof aye and whyll he be fullie payit of the said soume of Two thousand merks.

UPON THE 13 DAY OF NOVEMBER 1654 BEING THE LORDS DAY THE PREACHING BEGAN AGAN TO BE IN OUR CHURCH. PRASES TO OUR LORD FOR EVER.

16 *Novr.* 1654.—James Riddell and Anthoine Rosewell are desyred to go to ye Presbyterie to desyr a Meitting of ye Presbeterie to be heir in our Church for visitatione yrof befor that any seat be built in ye Church.

24 *Novr.* 1654.—The wh day there was a visitatione in our Church.

30*th Novr.* 1654 *Post meridiem.*—The Committie unanimously did condescend That the Gentlemen and Trafecquers sould have the bounds in the east end of the Church before the Skippers laich seats To build yrupon ten single pews fyfe on everie syd having a passage in the middest of the Church for the peoples entrie into the bodie of the Church and yis over and above yr former yll hich and laigh qrin they and their predecessors sat in formerlie; And if both sall not contain ym yn and in that case they sall have more in the body of the Church for yr farder accomodation; as for ye Tymbermens loft that they aim at the Session will not meddle yrwith upo no conditione.

(*Note.*—Cromwell regarded Leith as a natural centre for trade, and induced many English families of wealth and enterprise to become settlers in the town. They introduced the glass industry, and gave an impulse to the commerce of the port. Their presence is here reflected in the increased accommodation given to them in the church.)

25 *Jany.* 1655.—Ordains all the Collectors who collected some moneys for the common concernment of the Church and Hospital that they give in their collections to James Stevinsone or pnt Thesaurer that he may pay the Workmen part of yr compts so far as possible it will.

1 *Feby.* 1655.—Sir Hary Nisbet petitioned ye Sessione that he might be accommodat in these Seats which formerly was possessed by the Lord Balmerinoch in the Baxters yll according to the act of the Presbyterie wh petitione was granted and all the Sessione (except Jon Gray Baxter) unanimouslie condescendit that he sould have the equal half of the two formest Seats in the said yll.

1 *Feb.* 1655.—David Stoup is chosen church badill this day and did receave the kyes of the church door.

James Spence is chosen under badill to mak ye graves in ye church yard.

(*Note.*—The churchyard like the church was apportioned amongst the incorporations. Going from west to east, the ground north of the church was apparently appropriated by the maltmen, cordiners, hammermen, carters, and porters. The ground behind the east end of the church belonged to the Trinity House, and south thereof to the traffickers and merchants. Going back along the south side of the

church, from east to west we find indications that the various crafts had their burial places there—the extreme west being taken up by the maltmen and the carters. If this division is compared with that of the sittings within the church, a significant analogy will be discovered between the two. It would seem that the incorporations made burials within their respective aisles in the church and also in the ground of the churchyard immediately outside their aisles.)

22 *Feby.* 1655.—The Sessione appoynts James Marre Wright in Restalrig to build all the seats in the Kirk that appertaines to the Landward part of the Parish without any interruptione be any Wright in Leith.

(*Note.*—It is plain that Cromwell's soldiers had entirely cleared out the interior of the Church.)

1 *March* 1655.—Mr Wm. Ramsay James Kerse Skippers, Mr Jo. Crawfurd, James Stevinsone, Maltmen Jo. Riddell Anthonie Rosswell Trafecquers and Jhone Gray Baxter Jhone Wilkie Treadsmen are appoynted to meitt this night at 6 hours at even to consider concerning a Second Minister.

8 *March* 1655.—Mr Johne Hogg Wm. Purves and Geo. Lakie are desyred to speak with the Deputie Governour concerning some special bussines that most be imparted to him.

22 *March* 1655.—It is appointed that the Session and neighbours meit frequentlie the next Sessione day to consider concerning a second Minister and that intimation thereof be made the nixt Tuysday.

It is appoynted that ane Litteral Summonds be sent to the Mrs Mariners to summons them to compear the nixt Sessione day to exhibit and shew qt right they have to the Tymbermens Loft uyrways the Session will dispose yrupon as they sall think fit

Aggain it is appointed that James Bell Wright sould take down so much of the Smythes laich Seats as is within the body of the Church without ye pillars wh are builded in contempt of ye Sessione and contrar to ye ordour yrof.

29 *of March* 1655.—The which day the Session and neighbours did meit to consider concerning a second Minister and efter long deliberation it was thought most expedient that every corporation sould meit be themselves in yr own meitting places to consider upon ye premises and to report ane answer the next day to the Sessione.

The which day the Masters and Mariners being Summonds by a literal Summonds to compear before the Sessione they did compear and Robt Weir procurator for them and being interrogat if they would shew their papers to shew qt right they had to the Loft qrin the Tymbermen sits in ye Church The said Robert Weir their Procurator in yr name did protest against ye proceeding of ye Session declaring that the Session were not competent judges before whom any papers or right that the Masters and Mariners had sould be exhibited concerning that Loft wherein the Timbermen sitt nather can ye Sessione be both judge and partie as also they did appeal from the Sessione to uyr Judges competent qrupon the said Robert tooke instruments in the Clercke of Sessione his hands and required the extract of ye said Instrument to be given unto them which the Session could not refuse.

12 *Aprile* 1655.—It is ordained that David Stoup, our badill (*i.e.* beadle) should have the chalmer above the porch to dwell into (during the will of the Sessione) meal free.

(*Note.*—This is the building called the Kintore or Cantore. The word "Cantore" is probably priests' Latin for singing school.)

12 *April* 1655.—It is ordained that James Stevinsone pnt Thesaurer sould cause build the Ministers and there Wyfes three pewes where they were formerlie.

Also it is ordained that all the Seats which pertained to the Sessione be with all expeditione rebuilt as they were formerlie and that without prejudice to the Act of the Presbyterie.

19 *Aprill* 1655.—It is ordered this day that ane formal Act sould be drawn up in favour of the gentlemen and Traffecquers that they sould have that Loft beeast the pulpit qrin the Timber men were wont to sitt, and there cam ane letter from Timothie Wilkie Governour Depute importing no less nor the Traffickers sould have the said Loft.

(*Note.*—The Governor Depute by this letter enforced the right of the new traders to have suitable accommodation in the church.)

Ja. Logan and Mistress Logan his mother petitioned the Sessione for the place to build there seat qr they satt formerlie which was be

east the Bailives seat and before the Tailzeours laich seat, but James Riddell pretending some right yrto they were all continued till farder deliberatione.

26 *Aprille* 1655.—This day Mr Charles Lumsdain (being sent from the Presbyterie) declared that it was the Will of the Reverend Ministers of the Presbytery of Edinr. That Maistress Logan and her son James Logan sould have that seat qrin they sat formerlie which is be east the Bailives Seat and befor the Tailzeours laich seat according to yr Act yrof made ye 25th of June 1650.

The Session reverenced ye Presvyterie yr ordinance qr upon the Sessione granted that they sould have the said seat but becaus James Riddell pretends some title yrto yrfor they and James Riddell are desyred to desyst from building any Seat yr till it be decyded be the Presbyterie.

This day C. William Ramsay Skipper in Leith (and some other Mrs and Mariners with him) compeared and he for himsellfe and in name and behalffe of the whole Mrs and Mariners of Leith did protest against any act maid or to be maid in favour of the Trafecquers prejudiciall to them or yr successors concerning any seat or lofte in ye Kirk qrin the said Mrs and Mariners have interest and in particular concerning that yr yll be east the pulpit and loft qrin the Timbermen sits, qrupon he took Instruments in Mr Patrick Walker Towne Clerk of Leith his hands, and also required ye extract of this yr protestatione.

2*nd May* 1655.—The which day Major Pearson Town Major of this Garrison came to James Stevinson our present Thesaurer (by order of Timothie Wilks Governor Deput) and requyred the keyes of our Church door from us saying the Deputie would not suffer any Scots Minister to preach yr till farder order.

(*Note.*—The loyalty of the Scottish clergy to the King has been noted above, and as a result of this loyalty they rebelled against the regime of the Commonwealth. On Sunday 1st May the Rev. John Hog prayed for King Charles, and indulged in some plain speaking regarding the Government. In this way he offended General Monk with the result that the Governor Depute next day took summary possession of the church. One writer asserts that the church was at this time sacriligiously converted into a stable, adding that "a company of his Ironsides with their right hands (*i.e.* horses) abased the temple." Dr Robertson in his book remarks that no authority exists for this save vague tradition to which one may attach whatever importance he may deem fit. He adds that the vaults of the Trinity House were employed for "stores for the army," and duly paid for. It should be remembered that a similar tradition about Cromwell exists in regard to York Minster and several churches in Scotland and England. Thus it has been stated that St. Cuthbert's Church was converted into a barracks.)

30 *of May* 1655.—The which day efter incalling upon God Mr Jo Hog Moderator There was a meiting of ye Sessione and neighbours. First it is appoynted to draw up two Petitions ane to the Deputie Governor the uyr to the Commander in Chief to supplicat yr honors that they give use the use of our Kirk agane.

30 *May* 1655.—Mr Jon. Hogg our Pastor, James Stevinsone, William Murray Jo Wilkie and George Lantie are appoynted to go to the Governor Depute to speak wt his honor concerning ye Skippers yll be east the pulpit That the controversie betwixt ye Skippers and ye Gentlemen Traffickers may be taken away.

10 *Julie* 1655.—The wch day it was appoynted that ane petitione sould be drawne up and to present it to the Deputie guvernour and Remanent Officers and comanders within ye garisone and to give it in when they are sitting at ane court martiall concerning the restoring of our kirk to us agane.

26 *Julie* 1655.—It was ordained that ye Elders and deacons go through yr severall quarters to collect som charrittie from the people for Jeane Purves widow who had her house burnt and yrfor the minister was to mak intimaone yrof publiclie the nixt Lords day.

2 *Agust* 1655.—James Riddell and Jo. Kyll are desyred to speek with the Deputie governour to see if his honour would be pleased to cause the port (*i.e.* gate) be open upo the Lords day betwixt 7 hours in the forenoon untill 2 hours in ye efternoon for outgoing and incoming of the people to sermone in the Links.

30 *Agust* 1655.—Mr Jo Hogg Mr Rosewell Jo Riddell are desyred to speek with Mr Desborrow concerning or Kirk.

13 *Septr.* 1655.—Mr Roswell reportit that the presbyterie refused to insert and registrat in yr book the ticket of annexation of Restalrig to the south Kirk of Leith but he thinks to gait it registrat in som uyr books.

(*Note.*—It is not known whether this registration was ever completed. The double title "parson of Restalrig and minister of South Leith" seems to indicate that the union of the two parts was not quite complete. In the "protestation" of 15 June 1654, the Rev. John Hog reserves his rights to the stipend, glebe, manse, &c., of Restalrig.)

20 *Sepr.* 1655.—Mr Geo. Lesly . . . cam to ye session this day and consulted with the sessione concerning a petitione to be drawn up and to be given in to ye concell of stait concerning or Kirk.

19 *Octor* 1655.—The whilk day Mr Robert Pow schoolmaster at Taymouth being in this town be providence, was called for, who compeared and being demanded if he would imbrace the offer to be schoolmaster in the Grammer school and after consideratione he ansered he would.

The Session and neibours agreed with him that he should have yeirlie in stipend ane 100 pounds scots.

Also for ilk scholor yt learns Latin	£1	10	0
Also for ilk scoller yt learns arythmetick . . .	£1	10	0
Also for ilk scoller yt learns to read and wryt in English	0	13	4

So he was receaved and admitted and promised by ye Lords Grace and assistance to be dilligent and painfull and faithfull in his calling.

(*Note.*—This post had been refused by Mr James Allan, regent of ye humanitie school at St Androes.)

1 *Nov.* 1655.—Mr Jo. Hogg is desyred to speek to Mr William Hay concerning the anexing of pilrig to the south kirk of Leith.

1 *Novr.* 1655.—The which day it was condescendit that a Petitione be drawne up to be sent to the Lord Protector to supplicate his highness for our church and to seek Mr Andro Gilmuir his advyce heirin and to returne ane answer betwixt and Saturday nixt, and also to seek ye Towne of Edr. yr concurrence yrwith; and in ye meantime ye preaching to be in Restalrig for a time.

(*Note.*—Mr Andrew Gilmour was the Session's lawyer in Edinburgh.)

The Sessione and neighbours haith agreed with Ja. Riddell for his loft in the Dubraw above the soap house to be the gramer school, and the four Incorporations are to pay ye rent yrof yeirlie, James Riddell wold have five pounds sterling for ye rent yrof yearlie but ye Sessione and neighbours wold give but four lib sterling.

Ordaines to buy some dealls and trees to mak up some seats in ye school for ye bairnes.

(*Note.*—As noted above, the vaults of the Trinity House were used for Army Stores, and the Grammar School had therefore to be accommodated elsewhere. The Dubraw (*i.e.*, deux bras) was St. Andrew Street, an old French name not yet forgotten. Mr Riddell is mentioned again under date 30th June 1657, *sub.*)

17 *Novr.* 1655.—The whilk day there was a meitting of the sessione and neighbours and all did agrie unanimuslie to subscrive the petition which was drawne up be Mr Jon Hogg or Pastor that is to be sent to The Lord Protector for or church.

17 *December* 1655.—Mr John Hogg, William Murray, William Murray, Junr. and Mr David Aldinstown are desyred to speik with the Judges concerning ye Decree that is obtained against ye Session for ye vacant Stipend yat yei allegit pertained to ye second Minister.

Mr Jon Hog is desyred to speak with Mr Charles Lumbsdain Clerk to ye Presbyterie of Edr. that he insert in ye Presbtterie Book the protestatione which was given in be ye inhabitants of ye Toune of Leith against the landward part of ye Parish concerning preaching and keeping session of Restalrig etc.

13*th March* 1656. — It is unanimuslie condescended and concluded that our petitione sould be sent up to England to the Lord Protector concerning our Kirk that it would please his Heighness to cause restor it to us agan that wee may convein in it for ye worship of God, seing we have no place to meitt in but in ye open fields.

Also to writ to Collonel Fenwick governour of Leith qo for the pnt is at Londone that his honour would be assistant yrunto.

(*Note.*—These Minutes show the forlorn lot of the congregation doomed to wander in the wilderness all these months. The services were, we may suppose, held none the less regularly, the people gathering round the Giant's Brae, on which the minister stood to preach. Even so the services were subject to surveillance by the evangelical troops of the Protector.)

21 *Ap.* 1656.—James Stevenson . . . report that Adam Gairns his land besyd ye new hospitall wch was called the stiffing house payes yearlie Ten pound sterling and the land in ye narrow close upo ye Shore bewast the broad wynd payes yearlie £20 sterling. So the session compones both ye lands for ane £100 scots.

(*Note.*—These were casualties due to the Session. "Stiffing" was an old word for starch. The close referred to may have been the Precious Close, a narrow *cul-de-sac* now closed but still existing.)

29 *May* 1656.—To intimat ye nixt Lords day that none vaig (*i.e.* walk) in the Links in tym of divin service yr nather suffeir yr children to play yr under the pain of censour.

19 *June* 1656.—This day the Marquis of Argyll writ ane letter frome England to our sessione wrin our petition that was sent up to his heighness the Lord protector for our Kirk was enclosed with a reference upo the back yrof to the honble Counsell of Stait in Scotland superscrived by his heighness qrof the tenor followeth.

(*Note.*—A blank follows, which unfortunately has never been written in. The next extract no doubt gives the import of the reference.)

26 *of June* 1656.—Anthoine Rosewell, James Cutler and John Young Tailzr are desyred to goe to the North Kirk Session of Leith to intimat unto them that ye Counsell of State in Scotland efter ye sight of ane reference (from his heighness The Lord Protector) haith appoynted the south congregation of Leith to have the use of the north kirk to preach in for a tyme until the Magasin be removit from ye south paroch unto ye Citidal, at which tym the south congregatioun are to be restored to yr owne south kirk again, God willing.

(*Note.*—"Magasin" means war stores. The inference from this Minute is that the stores of the army—provisions, guns, horses, etc.—were kept in and about South Leith church, which formed the headquarters of the garrison until these were removed to the Citadel. The Citadel of North Leith was one of the great fortifications built by Cromwell—"passing fair and sumptuous." To make way for it, the burial place of North Leith was removed to the banks of the Water of Leith, where it remains still as a witness to the warlike energy of the great Protector. A description of the Citadel will be found in the histories of Leith. The main entrance, a strong archway thirty feet deep, may still be seen leading off Dock Street.)

3 *Jul* 1656.—Mr Jon Hogg is desyred to go to the governour to receave the keys of the North Kirk and the keys of the seats yrin, Wm. Ramsay and Alexander Comrie are appoynted to go with him this day at 2 efter noon.

The Sessione of South Leith are content and consents that if so be the North parioch can obtain Licence of the Counsell of Estatt to preach in ye north Kirk the sessione will be gladly content as the sessione and they can aggrie.

9 *Julie* 1656.—There was a visitaon of our kirk by the presbyterie.

10 *Julie* 1656.—Upon the 10 of Jul we began to preach in ye North Kirk.

The wch day Johne Dougalsene souldier in Capt. Haseman his company in Earl Monk's regement being about 24 years of age declared upon oath that Nathainall West is a free man unmaried.

The wh. 10 *of Juli* 1656.—It was condescendit unanimouslie by the whole session who were pnt that our acceptation of the North Kirke from the honourable Counsell of Estat (for a tym) shall not be prejudicial to our Minister to our south Parish or to the Landward part of the Parioch.

This day it is appoynted that Sir Henry Nisbet Portioner of Restalrig shall have the ane half of the two foremost laich seats forenenst the pulpit and William Purves of Abbeyhill the other two to sit in for ymselves and families.

(*Note.*—Nisbet of Craigentinny and Dean, and Purves of Abbeyhill, were two prominent men at this time.)

Lykways it is appoynted that the inhabitants of Restalrig shall have the Hammermens Loft in the east end of the Kirk to sitt in.

The whole Inhabitants within ye Town haith no particular seats appoynted to ym but that they sould sit promiscuously through all the Lofts and Laich Seats in the Kirke qrever they come till farder ordour.

17 *Julie* 1656.—To intimat ye nixt Lords day that ye Session and neighbours remain in ye efternoone to speeke concerning a Second Minister.

17 *Julie* 1656.—Ordained this day that every familie in Restalrig Craigend and in ye rest of ye landward part of ye paroch have a written tickit in parchment subscribed be ye minister wh tickit they must shew to ye guard at Edr. port qn they come in to sermon upon ye Lords day.

Mr Rosewell and Jas. McKean are desyred to join with Mr Purves of Abbay for framing of ane Petition to the Counsell of Estait for the losses of our Hospitall and windmill yard and all ye rest of or grivances.

20 *Julie* 1656.—The wh day (efter incalling upon God) the Session and neighbours mett to consider a Second Minister.

The Session and Neighbours desyred to heir some young men, some names, Mr George Cantor, Mr William Galbraith and Mr David Stirling to be hard, or any uyr they can think upon heirefter.

James Karse is to speak with the Skippers, Mr William Murray to speak ye Maltmen, James McKean to speak ye Traffecquers and James Bell to speak the Trads concerning ye premises.

Mr John Hog James McKean and George Lawrie are desyred to speak with ye Bailives, and yeefter to speak ye Town Counsell of Edinr. both for ye Impost and for ye fewduties yei are awand to ye Sessione.

24 *Julie* 1656.—William Ramsay and James Cutler in name of the Trafficquers James Kerse in name of ye Skippers, Alexr. Abercrombie in name of ye Maltmen, and John Wilkie in name of the Treads did declare that every ane of their corporationes are most willing that Mr John Hog our pnt minister sould have ane helper and ane collegue in the Ministrie of the Gospel.

(*Note.*—The tombstone of this Abercromby is referred to above under Minute of 12th May 1646.)

The Session desyrs Mr Wm. Ramsay to mak ane accompt of the Collectione collectit throw the land quarter in Janr. 1655 for the common concernment of the Kirk and Hospital.

24 *July* 1656.—Mr John Hogg Wm. Purves and Mr Rosewell are appoynted to go to the Counsell of State with a Petition for paying of the byrun rent of our hospitall and windmill yard and the rent yrof so long as the Staitte mak use yrof and first they are to speak the Lord President upon Moonday nixt for that effect.

7 *Agust* 1656.—Ordains that qn there are any persones to be maried upon a preaching day that they com tymlie befor sermon beginn to be maried.

7 *Agust* 1656.—Continues or pastor Mr Jon Hogg with any of ye session he please to be with him to wait on upon ane anser of our petition given in to the Counsell of Staitt for or hospitall and windmill yard.

James M'Kean reports that the Towne Counsell of Edr is willing to pay all ye byrun few deutties and to com that they are awand to the Session for the Kings work and for the north Links according to ye rentall book as also to have a cair that the impost be collected.

(*Note.*—The reference to the King's Work is an interesting one, recalling the earliest days in the history of the town. King James IV. in 1512 made a grant of £28 to Restalrig church, payable from the King's Work in Leith. It is this feu-duty which is here referred to, and the feu-duty is still paid by the city to the Kirk-Session. The King's Work is therefore a reality yet at each half-yearly term, being expressly named in the receipts given. The site of the King's Work was about the south-west corner of Bernard Street. It was at one time a royal dwelling, but latterly was used as an arsenal. A view of the King's Work may be seen in an old picture or "prospect" of Leith harbour printed in Grant's "Old and New Edinburgh," vol. iii. p. 177.)

21 *Augt.* 1656.—It is thought expedient to demand of Mr Rosewell qt he haith done with the twelve pound Sterling he gat from the

Corporationes for the comon concernment seing yr is no mention of it in James Stevinson his accompts.

Also to speak William Ramsay concerning yat collection was collected in the Sands qrter for repairing of the Kirke seing he never gave it in to James Stevinson late Thesaurer and no mention yrof in his compt.

2 *Septr.* 1656.—It is ordered to pay Margt Gibson pensioner of ye New Hospitall £33 6 8 for this years pension.

2 *Septr.* 1656.—Ordains that the neighbours meet with the Sessione ye nixt Lords day at the Sessione efter noon to consider concerning a Second Minister.

To demand again at Mr Rosewell qt he did with the 12 pound Sterling yat he received from ye 4 corporationes for ye comon concernment.

9 *Septr.* 1656.—It is ordered that Mr David Aldinstone look out for a convenient roum house with a division yrin neir to the gramer school qr both his owne vulgar schooll and musick school may be convenientlie accomodatt.

(*Note.*—This refers to the house in the Dubraw. *Vide* Minute 1st November 1655 *supra.*)

12 *Sepr* 1656.—James Kerse . . . are desyred to speak Jon Gray beacker (*i.e.*, baker) for the bread to the comunion.

John Wilkie . . . to wyll ye wyne (*i.e.*, choose the wine) and to sett it in the Sessione in tym yat it may setle.

John Wilkie is to speak James Telpher for the comunion tables to borrow some plancks for a tym.

18 *Sepr.* 1656.—It was unanimouslie condescendit be the Session and neighbours that the election of a Second Minister and helper to Mr John Hogg parsone of Restalrig and pnt Minister of South Leith shall be upon this day fourteen dayes without any farder delay and Mr John is to speak the Presbytery that Mr Mungo Benet be on the Leit.

Desyres the four corporations Vizt:—Skippers, Maltmen, Traffecquers and Treads men to meitt particularly among ymselves in yr own meittings, and to send yr myndes and ovyces on qm they think fittest to be electit.

Upon the 20 *of Sepr* 1656.—The two silver basins wt the five cups and silver laver together with the comunion boord clothes were delivered to Mr George Lantie pnt thesaurer.

24 *Sepr* 1656.—Ordains to give Robert Couper for 1600 tickits £10 13 4.

28 *Sepr* 1656.—The wch day efter invocatione of gods name it was ordered as followeth viz the Sands quarter to receave there tickits this day at 3 efternoon; the Hill quarter upon Twisday at 8 hours in the morning; the Tolbuith quarter at 2 efternoon yat day; and the Lees qr the morn fra 8 in the morning till 12 hours.

2 *October* 1656.—Mr John Hog, Moderator demanded if there was commissioners from the four Incorporations to declair yr Wills to qm they voice to be second Minister but first he desyred and pressed both with ye Sessione and neighbours to prorogate the electione till efter the Communione but it was answered that they wad adhear to the Act that was made this day fourteen dayes that is to go on this day without any further delay in the said electione.

Then the Moderator demanded the four incorporationes particularlie who ansrewed as followeth:—James Riddell and Florence Jamieson in name of the Trafficquers declared that they had not as yet met to consider concerning a Second Minister nather to consider advysidlie to whom they wold voice to be second Minister Therefor desyred that the Electione might not be till efter ye communione.

James Seaton and James Downy Elder from ye Skippers and in yr names declared that the Mrs and Mariners assented that Mr George Kintor be yr Second Minister.

James Stevinsone and Andrew Kincaid from ye Maltmen and in yr name declered that Mr George Kintor be yr Minister bot some of ye Maltmen upon ye Session objected and said yei had no commissione from them.

James Bell and James Barny from ye Treads and in yr names declared that the Treads assentit To Mr George Kintor.

The Session gois on in the electione.

The names of the young men upon the Leet were :—Mr George Kintor, Mr William Galbraith and Mr Mungo Bennet.

Efter interrogatione of the voices by the Moderator particularlie Mr George Kintor was elected to be second Minister by pluralitie of voices both of the Session and of three Incorporations Vizt:—of the Skippers, Maltmen and Treads.

Efter the Electione a Call was pntlie wrn and subt by the Moderator and many of the Sessione to be presented to the Presbytery the next Wednisday.

These qo were appoynted to present the Call (upo the Sessione.) were William Purves, James McKean and George Lantie.

Those of the neighbours were vizt :—from the Skippers James Seatoune and James Downy; from the Maltmen James Stevinsone and Andrew Kincaid from the Treads James Bell and James Barry.

16 *Octor* 1656.—Alexander Abercrombie and David Aldinstone are appoynted to visit ye holy blood acre at new heaven and report.

(*Note.*—The holy blood acre is the ground now called Anchorfield.)

23 *Octor* 1656.—George Lantie our Theasurer is appointed to give to William Took Glazier in part of payment of his account for glaseing ye Church four score pounds 80 libs.

23 *Octor* 1656.—The sessione condescendid that Georg Runsiman musitian shall teach the musick school for vocal and instrumentall musick and he shall have yearlie of stipend both for stipend and schoolmeall (*i.e.* rent.) three score pounds and that to be payit be the sessione fra yis day foorth and for ye pnt to tak a tryall of him for halfe ane year.

30 *Octo.* 1656.—The Thesaurer is desyred to see the Gramer schooll well accomodat with formes and boards.

19 *Febr.* 1657.—The sessione desyred Georg Runisman Musitiane to provyd for himselff aganst witsonday nixt for they will have no more of his service in suffering him to keep a musick schooll within yis towne and paroch.

2 *Aprill* 1657.—It is ordered to draw up a petition to the Counsell of Staitt for or Hospital, Windmill yaird and pertinents yrof who hes had ye use yrof almost ever since ye English cam in this land that we may have ye rent yrof.

2 *Aprill* 1657.—To meitt with Jon Jossie, balive in Edr to speek with him concerning the Impost, Kings land, and north Links viz Mr Jon Hogg . . .

Mr Jon Hogg, James Riddell, and Anthoine Rosewell are desyred to go pntlie efter the Sessione to speek with ye Governour for our kirk.

17 *May* 1657.—The which day Mr Jon Hogg or reverend pastor did read and intimat Mr Georg Kintor his Edick publicklie efter the fornoones sermon and befor the blessing according to the order of the presbyterie.

11 *June* 1657.—This day or Reverend Pastor Mr John Hogg declared to ye Sessione that it was the Will of the Reverend Brethren of the Presbyterie that Mr George Kintor sould be admitted upon Friday com eight dayes.

James Carse George Lantie and John Wilkie are appoynted to speak ye several Incorporationes for a denner to ye Brethren of ye Presbyterie at ye said admission.

19 *June* 1657.—The which day being Fryday Mr George Kintor was admitted to be Minister and fellow helper at the South Kirk of Leith by the Reverend Brethren of ye Presbeterie of Edinr.

(*Note.*—The Rev. George Kintor, A.M., was second minister from this date until 1664.)

Our South Kirk of Leith was restored to us again upon the 30 of June 1657.

(*Note.*—With this entry Cromwell's association with South Leith Church comes to an end. The minutes give the impression, however, that for some time previous to this date there had been preaching in the Church. It is said that Cromwell's chaplains and officers conducted services there. We know also that a cornice in oak under the north-west gallery bore an inscription in carved and gilded letters "16=For the Craigend=56," indicating that some work had been done in the Church about that date, and the beam itself may still be seen in the Antiquarian Museum. At this time, too, the pulpit was placed in the middle of the north aisle where it stood until 1848. In connection with the restoration of the Church, which had been promised in the previous year, the following

story is told :—Mr Riddel of Kinglass, a citizen of Leith, had by some means or another made himself serviceable to the General, and the latter on setting out for London inquired if he could in any way benefit him or his family. His only request was that the Church might be restored, promising that Mr Hog, the minister, should not offend for the future. Surprised by the modesty of the request it was instantly granted by the General, and the Church was newly roofed at his expense. To testify their gratitude, the Kirk Session, on 27th May 1658, granted Mr Riddell and his heirs a large space in the area of the Church for a family seat in all time coming. Riddle's Close is said to have taken its name from this Mr Riddel.)

2 *Jul* 1657.—Our Thesaurer Geo. Lantie is desyred to lon (*i.e.*, lend) our silver basins and silver coups to the North Kirk Session for yr communion and to tak a ticket of ye clercks hand of the recept yrof.

Ordains to draw up a new Petition agane to supplicat The Heighness concell of Stait for the rent of or hospital and windmills yard.

9 *July* 1657.—The said 9th of Julie 1657 it was ordered to build ane new Seat to the Bailives in the Bodie of the Kirke befor ther old Seat.

As also it is ordered that Sir Hary Nisbets foremost seat be advanced foorth in the bodie of the Kirke als farre as the Balives seat is.

Lykways this day it ways unanimouslie condescendit and granted unto the Coupers Wrights Masons Sclaiters etc that they may bigg ane new Seat in the bodie of the kirke befor yr own yll for which they are willing to pay to the Sessione yearlie such a rent as they and the Session can agree.

23 *July* 1657.—The which day the Weivers and Shoemakers petitioned ye Session to remove the Craigends two laich seats in yr eyll back to the piller and immediatly befor ye Maltmens laich Seat on ye North syd of ye Kirk.

(*Note.*—The transition from the stage of the open area to that of seats and galleries made much progress at this time, aided no doubt by the long Covenanting services. An English traveller at this time states that the Church of Leith was finer inside than any he had seen out of London, and adds that the women brought creepies to the church, à la Jenny Geddes, sitting in front of the men. The division of the church at this time probably corresponded very much to that shown in the old plan which the Session now possess, which dates back to the beginning of last century. It shows that the sittings in the east gallery and below were appropriated to the Trinity House; in the west gallery and below to the maltmen. The north aisle, going from west to east, was divided amongst the weavers, shoemakers, Calton incorporation, and hammermen. The south aisle, going from west to east, was occupied by the carters, the merchants, and the various crafts. The lofts above were divided in a somewhat corresponding fashion. Compare Minute of 1st February 1655 *supra.*)

30 *July* 1657.—Our Thesr. George Lantie is appoynted to cause rebuild the Ministers Seats qr they were formerly and efter ye same form.

20 *August* 1657.—This day Mr John Hog or Reverend Pastor reported that it was the will of the Presbytery that the wivers shoemakers and neighbours of the Craigend sould agree and that the two seats that are builded and set up alredie be these of the Craigend (*i.e.*, Calton) should stand in the place qr they are set and the wivers and shoemakers to build behind them uyrways the shoemakers and wivers to be confined within yr own yll and no to come within the bodie of the Kirke and the said two seats be set within the bodie of the Kirke.

(*Note.*—*Vide* Minute of 30 June 1657 *supra.*)

3*rd Septr.* 1657.—The which day it was reported be James Stevinsone . . . That they had settled the wivers and cordiners (*i.e.*, shoemakers) and that they are content to build there three laich seats in yr yll behind ye Craigend seats and this committee in name of the session grantit unto them that there two backmost seats shall come als farre out in the body of the Kirk as the Chalk is upon the foremost of the Maltmens laich seats and the foremost of the three to come as farre out as the saids two seats qrin the neighbours of Craigend sitts, as also it is condescendit that all seats within the said yll and bodie of the Kirke shall be no higher nor the Maltmens laich seats qrin the workmen sitts for the present be tollerance of the Maltmen the Sessione agrees to the principles and permits the saids wivers and shoemakers to build up yr seats as is before mentioned.

10 *Sepr* 1657.—Ordains to give a nott to the balive Rob. Sandelands concerning Wm.

Ramsay who comitted a ryot in the Kirk in taking off ye locke of Henry Bell his pew.

24 *Septr.* 1657.—The sessione and Johne Riddoch has aggried and hes sett him the five acres and ane half of arrable land wch appertains to the new hospital and that for the space of 3 years and the said Jon to pay for the ferme yearlie and ilk year 40 lib scots and ordains ane tak (*i.e.* lease) to be drawne up yrof to be subscrivit be them conform to this act and desyres him to put pleugh in the land presentlie.

(*Note.*—This refers to the land at Seafield mortified by Bishop Lamb to King James Hospital.)

1 *Octor.* 1657.—The balive Ro. Sandelands reports that he caused put Marione Christie into ye jogs wt a paper upo her browes and stood four houres and yrefter caused put her out of this toune never to be seen heir at any tym heirefter.

(*Note.*—The jougs of South Leith were recently exhibited at our Bazaar. The chain that held the iron collar at Restalrig is still to be seen, attached to the northern pillar of the old entrance to the churchyard, now a part of the wall.)

8 *Octor* 1657.—It is ordered to give Johne Craig some support for ringing of the Tolbuith bell to the sermones and refers him to or thesarer his discretione; this day he gat 3 lib Scots.

29 *Octor* 1657.—Appoynted James Seatoune George Lantie James Bell, James Kerse, Jon Watson and Mr David Aldinstoune to meit with Wm. Took Glasier in the Kirke upon Saturday the next to visit the glasine windowes and to settil and agree with him for repairing yrof and to report the next day.

19 *Novr.* 1657.—James Seaton reports that he had spoken with Wm. Ramsay for the moneyes that he haith in his hand which was collected threw the Sands quarter for repairing of our Kirk in anno 1655, whose answer to him was that he was awand no moneyes at all to the Sessione.

19 *of Novr.* 1657.—The Act concerning Mr David Aldinstoune or presentor and session clerck his stipend of 200 merks yearlie both in tymes bygone and in all tymes coming (being without a musitian) subscribed be a comittie appoynted be the session, the tenor followeth:—

It is agreed too by the Committee appoynted by the session to sitt on Mr David Aldinstounes compts that in all tyms coming as also in all tyms. preceiding when he wanted a musician to have 200 merks yearlie and accordinglie the thesaurer to count with him and pay him.

(*Note.*—This Act is written in large letters, and underneath it are the signatures of Mr Hog and Mr Kintor, Ministers, and 13 members of session, one subscribing by his mark.)

26 *Novr.* 1657.—Desyrs or thesarer Georg Lantie to speek with Wm. Robertsone Skipper and to pay him some scool meall (*i.e.*, rent.) that is awand (*i.e.*, owing.) to the masters and mariners for there laich vout (*i.e.*, vault.) wch is the gramer schooll.

(*Note.*—The Grammar School had now returned to its old quarters in the Trinity House. *Vide* Minute 1 November 1655, *supra*. It may be here stated that the Grammar School continued to meet in the Trinity House (where it appears to have originated about the time of the Reformation) down to 14th December 1710. On that date the Session, unable or unwilling to pay the Trinity House a rent of £3 sterling for the accommodation, appointed King James's Hospital to be repaired for receiving the school. From the hospital it went in 1806 to the Links to become the Leith High School, now Leith Academy.)

26 *Novr.* 1657.—Mr Jon Hog, Mr Georg Kintor or pastors and the mrs of the new hospitall are to draw up a petition to the Counsell of State for the rent of the said hospitall for so long as it haith been imployed for the use of the State.

3 *Decr.* 1657.—Also Mr Jon Hog Robt. Murray and James Seatoune are to speak the Traffickers that they are to rebuild the loft and laich seats uyr wayes the Sessione will dispose thereupon as shall be thought fitt.

Mr John Hog this day quat to be given to the poor 6 lib Scots that the Shoemakers rests to him of yr proportion of his Stipend.

The four Corporations are desyred to meitt upo Monday next to consider con: the Ministers Stipend.

17 *Decr.* 1657.—Given to Thomas Porteous in gratuitie together with something that he hes gotten before 55s. 4d. and ye session hes

concludit that nayther he nor any schoolmaster that sal be in Restalrig at any tyme heirafter sall have anything out of ye Session seeing that ye heritors yr are able and are obliged to sustain a schoolmr yr.

24 *Decr.* 1657.—Agnes Alexr. relict is discharged this day to suffer the Quaikers to convein in her chamber qr frequentlie they meitt.

7 *Janr.* 1658.—The wh day the Wivers and Shoemakers gave in there contract concerning there Loft and laich seats in the Wivers yll to be insert and regret in this our Register *ad futuram rei memoriam* qrto the Session did consent and agrie.

Qrof the Tenor followeth :—

At Leith the threttin day of Novr. ia/vi fyftie seven years It is unanimouslie condescendit and agreed upon betwixt the Wivers following They are to say Hugh Gilmour James Haddow Wm. Stirk Robert Aicken Wm. Lantie William Gilmour, William Harper, Wivers and Freemen in Leith on the one part and Archibald Glasgow Jon Walker George Pitcathlie Gavin Ramsay and Thomas Henry Shoemakers and freemen there in the uyr part That is to say the said Wivers above named for themselves and in nam and consent and assent of the remanent Wivers freemen in Leith be thir parts are most willing and content to accept tak in and receave the said Shoemakers and there successors being freemen of there tread and calling to be conjunct with them in the said Ill and in all tymes coming it be called the Wivers and Shoemakers Ille.

For the which cause the said Shoemakers above named for themselves and in name and with consent and assent of the remanent Shoemakers there are most willing to joyn with the said Wivers to be co-partners with them in the said Ille and binds and oblishes them and their successors to bear the just equal half of the expenses in building and repairing of the saids Loft and laich seats in the said Ille at this pnt tym and in all tymes coming as also they have payit to the saids Wivers for ther entrie six pounds Scotts and obliges them in all tyme coming to pay to ym in name of Feudutie 1 shilling 3d. Scots yearlie and heirto both the said pairties bindes and obliges them and there successors to observe and keep to uyrs And in caise of failzie in any poynt of the premises in that caise the partie failzear shall pay to the partie keeper the sume of Twentie libs Scots money consenting these presents be insert and regrat in the Session Books of the South Kirk of Leith *ad futuram rei memoriam* be this our Contract wrin be Mr David Aldinstoun Clerck to the Sessione subt. with our hands day year and place forsd. before these witnesses Johne Wilkie couper in Leith the said Mr David and Jhone Young Tailyour there.

14 *Jany.* 1658.—It is thought expedient to desyr James Riddell William Ramsay, John Brotherstounes Jo. Semple and James Gray to meit with ye Balives and Ministers in ye Clerks chamber upon Tuysday next be nyne hours to speak concerning ye Traffickers there fourth proportion of ye Ministers Stipends.

28 *Janr.* 1658.—Or Thesaurer Geo. Lantie is desyred to cause furnish William Took glazier with glass bands and lime and other furnitour for upputting of the glaze Windowes in the Kirke.

18 *Febr.* 1658.—Mr John Hog our Reverend Pastor George Lantie Thesaurer James Kerse John Wilkie Sessioners and Jon. Gray ane of the Masters of the new Hospital and Mr David Aldinstoun our Clerck are appoynted to meitt with the Balives Robert Murray and George Reid upon Tuysday next at two houres afternoone in ye Clercks Chambers to count with James Bell and John Young, Wrights concerning all the Work done by them both in Kirk and Hospital and to cognosce qt they have gottin and qt is resting to ym.

25 *Febr.* 1658.—The Committee appointed the 18th of Febr. last to peruse James Bell and John Young yr compts for yr wark wrought be ym in ye Hospital and Kirk finds that yr is resting to ym by yr Count Three hundredth fourscore six pounds 6 sh. Scots ; they perfecting the Ministers Seats and a rail about the Pulpit the Session furnishing ym ane oak tree yrto they defalking qt they have received alreadie according to or Thesaurers count.

The Session condescends and agries to pay to Adam Wilson fourtie two pounds Scots

42 libs Scots for regulating the Clock this long tyme bygone and or Bailie Robert Murray promised to cause pay him out of the first end of the Impost Income that is in James Reas hand that is due to the Session.

4 *March* 1658.—William Purves of Fulford and Balive of the Barony of Restalrig promised to build the Loft bewast ye Pulpit above ye Lord Balmerinoch's laich seats for the use of the Landward part of the Parioche and that upon his own expenses.

11 *March* 1658.—Our Thesr. Geo. Lantie is desyred to cause build three double pewes in the bodie of the Kirke before the Skippers laich seats as they were formerlie and that upon the Sessiones expense to let out for the use of the Sessione.

18 *March* 1658.—James Seatton George Lantie and Johne Young Sessioners Jon Gray James Stevinsone and Jon Brotherstoun maisters of the new Hospital are appoynted to meit with Thomas Dicksone efter the comunion concerning the hospital writts and the rent of St. Anthons as also concerning Johne Riddoch his compts and to give a count of yr dilligence efter the comunione.

8 *Aprill* 1658.—The Session unanimously did condescend that Mr John Hogg or reverend and worthie pastor shall have yearlie out of the Session to help to pay his house meal (*i.e.*, rent) heir in Leith besyd his manse in Restalrig 100 mks Scots.

15 *Aprill* 1658.—Ordains David Stoup our beadill and James Armour under badill and grave maker that they divid equalie betwixt them qt ever sal be gottin for making of the graves, the said James making the graves and furnishing spads mattocks and shovells for that effect.

20 *May* 1658.—Mr Jon Hog or Reverend pastor and Robert Murray and George Reid balives are desyred to speek with the Governour concerning the wind mills yard and kirk yard Dicks (*i.e.*, dykes.) that they may be repared.

27 *May* 1658.—The wch day James Riddell and Mr James Logane were setled concerning the seat that was debetable betwixt ym this long tyme That is to say Mr James Logan is to pay for the seat that James did build befor the Tailyours seats to the said James and the Sessione grants Libertie to James Riddell to build a new seat for him selff and familie within the bodie of the Kirk betwixt Sir Hary Nesbit his seat and the formost laich seat that pertains to ye maltmen and ordains the clerck to give the extract of this Act to the saids Mr James Logan and Ja. Riddell qn ever they shall requyr it.

(*Note.*—Compare Minute of 30 June 1657, *supra.*)

10 *June* 1658.—This day the Session ordained Mr David Aldinstone their reader and Session Clerck to begin the next Lords Day to read the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments publicklie according to the old laudable custome before the Minister com to the pulpit and so continue till he be dischairgit if it sall hapin so to be.

(*Note.*—The Session-Clerk conducted the preliminary service of praise and reading from the Bible, Catechisms, etc., until at the third bell the minister entered the pulpit to conduct his service of extempore prayer and preaching.)

Ordained George Lantie John Wilkie, and Jas. Kerse and Mr David Aldinstone to visit the Windmill yaird and to cause cast downe the knowes yrof and to fill up the ditches and to mak it all levell as it was formerly before the English cam into Scotland.

10 *June* 1658.—The which day the Session unanimouslie condescends and agries to ratifie and approve the act maid betwixt yr predecessors and William Took Glazier dated the 22 of Febr. 1648 Wrof the tenor followeth.

(*Note.*—This is in the same terms as before.)

The four Corporatione are appoynted to meitt with the Minister and Balives in the Clerck chambers upon Tuysday next at nyne hours concerning the poynting of the Kirke and repairing of Kirk yard dicks (*i.e.* dykes) also concerning Mr Geo. Kintor his stipend and concerning the fyftie pound sterling that is to be gottin from the commissioners for the rent of or Hospital.

1 *Jul* 1658.—This day it was ordered yat the old Act concerning brydle lawings sould be renued, that is, that no penny brydles be dearer nor a merck not exceiding 16s and to that effect the brydgrom is to consigne £10 Scots yat night that he is to tak down his nam, and if any more be exacted aff ather man or woman the £10 is to be for the use of the poor. This was done be the balives order with concurrance of the Sessione.

(*Note.*—Bridal lawings were the levies paid by self-invited guests for attending marriage feasts. People gladly paid for this privilege as they pay now for admission to a carnival. At a remote period the levy was a penny (hence "penny weddings") and besides this payment a dish was handed round for contributions towards the house furnishing. The festivities lasted for two or three days and were attended with excesses of drinking and profanity, which the Church from time to time strove to restrain.)

The 13 of Julie 1658 The Sessione did agrie with Gilbert Andersone Sclaiter to point the whole Kirke and porch for twentie pounds Sterling he furnishing all necessars and workmanship himself to this effect it is ordered that the Skippers sould pay the fyft part of the said Twentie pound sterling the Maltmen a fyft part, the Traffecquers a fyft part, the Treads a fyft part, and the landward part of the paroch to pay a fyft part.

For which cause these persones following are appoynted to speak with the several Incorporations and to get their several proportions and to give it to the said Gilbert, vizt:—

For the Skippers.....James Seatoune.
For the Maltmen.....Wm. Murray.
For the Traffecquers.....Robt. Murray, Balive.
For the Treads.....John Young, Tailyour.
For the Landward Part...Mr John Hogg, our Pastor.

And it is condescended and agried upon that the said Gilbert Andersone shall uphold the Kirke watter ticht for the space of tenn years efter he has compleatly poynted the whole Kirke and Porch, for which the Session is to give him yearlie for the space of tenne years the soume of Twentie pounds Scots 20 libs Scots, and to this effect ane Contract is to be drawn up betwixt the Sessione and the said Gilbert.

13 *Jul* 1658.—It was proponit to the maisters of the hospital that it was the desyr of the sessione to borrow the fyftie pound Sterling that is gottin from the State for the rent of the hospitall wch for the pnt is in the custodie of Georg Lantie or thesaurer.

It was anserit be the mrs that they would len the halfe of the free money of ye said £50 sterling upon band and good securitie; but it was anserit be those of ye Sessione that they would give ym ane act of the Sessione for it.

(*Note.*—This £50 sterling, what is free of it "efter count and reckoning," was delivered to the masters of the hospital, as the loan proposal fell through at this time. The money had been paid by the State for the time the English army had occupied the Hospital.)

29 *Julie* 1658.—Jon Brotherstounes in name of Trafecquers promised that if any of the neighbours sould pay for yr pewes in the body of the Kirk the Trafecquers sould lykways pay for yrs.

It is ordered that our Thesr. sould pay to Gilbert Anderson Sklaitter ye Skippers proportion of fourtie eight pounds Scots for poynting of Kirke becaus ye Session is debtful to the Skippers for ye gramer schoole.

It is ordered that our Rev. Pastor Mr John Hog sould speak to Lord Balmerinoch, Sir Hary Nesbit Wm. Purves heritors and the rest of the Landward part of the Parish for yr proportione of fourtie eight pounds Scots for poynting of the Kirk.

26 *Augst* 1658.—It is unanimouslie concluded be the Sessione that or reverend ministers Mr Jon Hog and Mr Georg Kintor should begin shortlie efter this to have the moondayes lectour together with ye ordinar preaching upo the Thursdayes.

23 *Septr.* 1658.—The which day James Riddell James Kyl John Brotherstounes for ymselves and in nam of the rest of the Traffickers compeared and demanded of the Session if they would let them have the seat in the east end of the Kirk befor the Skippers laich seats conform to yr Act the 30th of November 1654.

The Session by pluralitie of voices condescendit that the said Traffickers should have the three double pewes in the body of the Kirk befor the Skippers laich seats and so much

rowme in the bodie of the Kirke as to build two pewes befor the Maltmens laich seats for yr pnt accommodatione (they first repairing yr own yll) they obliging ymselves to pay yr proportion of the ministers Stipend and uyr dues incumbent to them bygone and to come and this pnt act not to be prejudicial to yr former act in Novr. 1654 if it shall happen at any tyme heirafter that they sall claim and obtain yr former act so as in that caise this pnt Act shall be null and of none effect; qrto the said James Riddell James Kyll and Johne Brotherstounes for themselves and in nam of the rest of the Traffecquers did condescend and agrie and did require the extract of the former and pnt acts which the Session granted and ordained yr Clerk to give them the extract yrof.

7 *Octor* 1658.—The Balives Ro. Murray and Georg Reid considering the great burthins of the Sessione and seing yr is not ane bell in the steple for the pnt Therefor they of yr free motive will did cause cast ane bell upon their owne proper expenses and gifted it to the sessione and toune of Leith For which the session rendered them many thanks but the uyr expenses in bringing of the said Bell and putting up yrof was upon the sessiones charges.

4 *Novr.* 1658.—Mr Geo Kintor reportit that he and Mr Jon. Hogg has been at the Counsell of Edr. to hear qt anser they would give concerning the ground annull of twentie aught pounds yearlie they are due to the sessione out of the Kings Work the Counsells anser was that they would see qt right the session had to seek the same befor they would pay any.

(*Note.*—Compare Minute of 7th August 1656 *supra.*)

11 *Novr.* 1658—Ordains to mak public intimation the nixt Lords Day for a public collectione throw the whole paroch for repairing of or Kirkzaird dickes.

25 *Novr.* 1658.—Robert Murray or Ballive James Seatoune James Kerse are appointed to go with or Minister to speak with some of the Reverend brethren yr concerning the communion elements that sould be furnished be the Lord Balmerinoch who haith the Teethes (*i.e.*, Teinds) of the Paroch which elements were furnished to the Sessione out of the Poors box heretofore to yr owne prejudice.

9 *Decr.* 1658.—Mr Jon Hog reports that the Lord Balmerinoch is willing to give the Session infeftment of some of his Lo. lands for the £1000 that his Lo. is awand to the Sessione; but the Session refuses yt offer altogether.

The Balive reportit that he has aggreed wt Humphra Mills to regulat or clock and to have yearlie to keep her richt the sum of 20 mcks.

23 *Decr.* 1658.—Ordains to warn the Mrs of the Hospital to give yr promise of fidelitie befor the Civil Magistrats.

30 *Decr.* 1658.—Ordains to give a new act to the Traffickers for yr seats in the Church and them to pay for all bygones and to com there proportion of ye Ministers Stipend and uyrs qtsoever is incumbent for them to pay.

20 *Janr.* 1659.—Sir Harry Neisbit Portioner of Restalrig and William Purves of Widdieslie (*i.e.* Woodhouselee) promised to have a cair that the Landward part of Parish sould pay the fyft part of the proportion for poynting the Kirke and Porch.

24 *March*, 1659.—Mr Jon Hog, Mr Georg Kintor Jas. Seatoune George Leslie and Jon. Gray are desyred to speak with the Lord Balmerinoch for the Communione elements upo Fryday com eight days efternoone.

24 *March* 1659.—Mr Jon. Hog, Georg Lantie . . . are to meit with Mr Robert Pow, Schoolmr and to consider upon a way how a doctor in ye gramer schooll may be entertained.

7 *April* 1659.—The wh. day those who were appoynted to speak with the Lord Balmerinoch concerning the Communione eliments reported that they had spoken with his Lordship and that he would pay nothing for the Communion eliments but in so far as it concerns the proportion of the Landward part of the Parish.

21 *April* 1659.—The order of the Communion was established as followeth.

The balives Robert Murray and Laurens Mercer to sitt at the back of the ministers at the head of the Table. Sir Harry Nesbit and William Purves to attend at the head of the table James Seatton and Jon Young to stand at the head of table and to collect the Tickits . . . to stand at the wast end of the table to order the people as they com to the table . . . to stand at the two easter pillers for good order yr . . . to carry the bread . . . for the coups . . . for the stoups . . . to bring the wyn to the tables . . . to attend the drawing of the wyn in the yll (*i.e.*, aisle) . . . to collect both the saturdays . . . to collect at the church door both the Lords days . . . to collect at the wester styll . . . to collect at the easter and mid stylls . . . to collect the two Moondayes. . . .

(*Note.*—The blanks represent names.)

24 *May* 1659.—The whilk day Mr Robt. Pow schoolmr of ye grammer school petitioned the Session that it would please yr wisdoms to augment his stipend and to have 200 merks yeirlie during his abod as schoolmr (qras for ye present he haith but 100 lbs. Scots.) and also to a doctor (being a qualified man) 100 merks Scots yearlie in stipend to sustain him in bed and board and so no to go throw with ye bairns per vices to denner and supper and the first tearms payment of both to be at Mertimas next.

The sessione unanimuslie did condescend they attending dilligentlie and painfull in educatting the children committed to their chairge.

(*Note.*—200 merks, or about £11 sterling, was the maximum salary authorised by Act of Parliament. Besides his salary the schoolmaster got fees from the pupils for the various subjects taught. *Vide* Minutes of 8th October 1629 and 19th October 1655, *supra*. The custom of the teacher being boarded by the parents of the scholars in turn was more common in the country than in the town.)

2 *June* 1659.—Jon Kirkland and devirse uyres dwellers in the backsyd petitioned the Session to permit ym to com throw the Kirk-yard and that the back zet (*i.e.* gate) nor the foir porch be close upon ym but that they may have free passag in the day tym and night tym; they sould close the back zet and sould suffer no beast to enter in yrat; wch petition was granted.

16 *June* 1659.—It is ordained that a letter be sent to the Lord Balmerinoch Sir Hary Neisbet and William Purves Heritors of the Barony of Restalrig to the effect that may pay yr fyft part for poynting of the Kirk vizt:—48 libs Scots.

The which day it was thought expedient and ordered by the Sessione that every Incorporation shall meitt particularlie among themselves and to consider upo ane annuetie or reik penny for payment of the Ministers Stipend and to report the next dyát.

(*Note.*—The "reik penny" was a tax paid to the minister by every house, or chimney, in the parish. This seems to refer to the stipend of the second minister.)

Our Thesaurer George Lantie reports that he haith payit John Smith for regulating the clock and ringing of the bell.

24 *Nov* 1659.—David Stoup or Badell was rebooket in pns of the Sessione for not having graves reddie maid qn the corps come to the Kirkyard.

5 *Januar* 1660.—This day the balies reported that James Seatone Jas. Loicart Skippers Wm Murray Andro Malloch Maltmen Jon. Brotherstoune Alexander Tait, Thomas Wood, Trafecquers John. Young Jon. Gray Traidsmen did meitt upon Saturday last ye 31 December 1659 to consider concerning a way for payment of the Ministers Stipend and they did promise to meitt with yr own incorporationes and to report.

The which day ane Assignation granted be the Sessione to the Masters of the new Hospitall was insert and registrat whairof the tenor followeth.

(*Note.*—Here follows a very long document giving security to the Hospital for the sum of £50 referred to above, "which sum was allocat and allowed to be payit out of the Thesaurie be the Honourabil Council of Stait for the time to be paid in towards the reparatione of the new Hospital of Leith callit King James his Hospital during the tym the magasin of the English armie did remaine within the said Hospital.")

Lykways upon the 5 of January 1660 A Discharge of the above nyn hundreth merks subt. be the Sessione to George Lantie yr Thesaurer was insert and regrat as efter followeth.

Be it kend to all Men be thir pnt. lres Wee the Ministers, Elders and Deacons of the South Kirk Session of Leith And Wee the Maisters of the New Hospital of Leith called King James his Hospital under subscrivand for or selves and remanent Elders and Deacones and Mrs foresaid Forasmeikle as we do hereby acknowledge George Lantie Maltman in Leith Thesaurer to the said Kirk Sessione did at our speciale request and desyr uplift and receave frae the general receaver John Bayne Esqr., the summe of fyftie pounds Sterling lawful money of England whilk sum was allocat and allowit out of the Thesaurie be the honorable Council of Stait for the tym towards the reparatione of the said Hospital conforme qrunto the said George Lantie receaved the said sum of fyftie pounds Sterling and gave his recept yrupon to the said Generall receaver and now seeing the said George Lantie Thesaurer forsaid at our special diectione haith distributed and wared out the said totall summe of fyftie pounds Sterling for pious uses and defraying of other debts of the said Kirke Session and yrupon the said Kirk Session haith given securitie to us the said Mrs Therefor Witt ye us with ane consent and assent for ourselves and our successors to have exonered quyt claimed and simpliciter discharged lyk as wee be the tenor heirof exoners quytclaimes and simpliciter discharges the said George Lantie and als the said Generall Receaver Baynes and uyrs qm it effeirs of the said summ of fyftie pounds Sterling receaved and distributed as said . . .

(*Note.*—The rest is awanting, two leaves being out of the Register.)

15*th March* 1660.—The which day the Couppers Fleshers, Massones, Wrights, Sclaiters and uyr Traidsmen gave in a Petition to the Sessione humblie desyring that no seats be builded in the body of the Kirk before James Riddell his Seat to ye prejudice of yr hearing and seeing of the Minister preaching.

Continues to give them an answer till the next dyat and no seat to be builded yr till farther.

22 *of March* 1660.—The Mrs of the new Hospitall called King James his hospital petitioned the Sessione that it wold please yr Wisdomes to provyd som (moneys) to them qr with they may repair the said hospital becaus the Session is dew to ye said hospital 900 mks.

(*Note.*—The Hospital was called "new" because a previous one had been demolished and this one took its place. The name "King James" does not signify that it was endowed by that monarch. This was merely an old Scotch expression, meaning no more than is now meant by "royal"—*e.g.*, Royal Infirmary. The Hospital was a plain and unpretentious tenement. An old gentleman, not long deceased, remembered to have seen it when a child from his nursery window in Laurie Street, and an old lady is still alive in Edinburgh, 103 years of age, who has a distinct recollection of it. The site of the Hospital is indicated in the Kirkgate wall by a stone bearing the sword and sceptre with the inscription "J.R.6." This having originally been built into the front of the Hospital, no doubt helped to keep alive the rather cumbrous name by which it was continually called. Besides this stone the Hospital also had a royal coat-of-arms, in all likelihood the arms of King James VI., which in 1848 were built into the north wall of the church tower. They had previously been built into the churchyard wall under the stone above referred to, and the square from whence they were removed can still be seen.)

12 *Aprill* 1660.—The wevers and uyr indwellers in the backsyd petitioned the Session to let them have accesse and passag throw the kirkyard wch was granted provyding they keep the back zett closse yat no beast com into ye Kirk zard.

19 *April* 1660.—The Session appoints our Reverend Pastor Mr George Kintor Jon. Boyd, Bailie Sir Hary Neisbit, Jas. Seatoune, Jon Gray to meitt this day at three efternoone with the Maltmen and Trafecquers to settle and agrie then concerning Lofts and Leach Seats.

26 *Aprill* 1660.—The wh. day it was ordered that for as meikle that sundrie persones of diverse Incorporationes puts up and takes down Lofts and Seats in the Kirke without licence and libertie of the Sessione askit and given therefore it is ordered that no persone or porsones within the congregation presume to build or take down any Lofts or Seats within the Kirke in all tymes coming without leave askit and given of the Sessione under the pain of punishments at the will of the Civil Magistrate and Church censur, and this Act to be intimat the next Lords day publicklie.

It is in the Sessiones power to dispose of these three laigh seats before the Maltmens laigh Seats as they please seeing the Session

haith builded them upon the Sessions Expences and nather Maltmen nor Traffecquers have any right thereto.

10 *May* 1660.—The said day the Hammermen petitioned the Sessione that it would please yr Wisdomes to suffer them to setle and enlarg yr formest Seat in yr Loft.

The Sessione referred them to settle and aggrie with the Skippers and qt the Skippers and they did yrin The Sessione should rest satisfied.

And withall ye Seat before James Riddell's Seat to be builded.

(*Note.*—The skippers objected to the hammermen's loft being projected so as to interfere with their view of the pulpit.)

21 *May* 1660.—Our Rev. Pastor Mr John Hogg reported from the Presbyterie That Mr Jon Smyth Mr Jon Hamiltoun Mr James Reid and Mr Jon. Knox are to meitt heir in or South Kirk of Leith upon Tuesday next after sermone To consult with the Ministers and Session concerning the Seat that is to be builded before James Ryddell his Seat and the Presbyterie desyred that no seat be builded yr till the foresaid Committee visit the ground and the whole process yr anent.

5 *Julie* 1660.—The Session this day appoints and commissionats Andro Malloch ane of yr Elders and Mr David Aldinstone yr Clerk to go to my Lord Balmerinoch to speak concerning the elements of the Sacraments of the Lords Supper.

Secondlie concerning the poynting of the Kirk as to the fyft part of the proportion and, Thirdly concerning the building of my Lords Seat in the Kirke.

12 *Julie* 1660.—This day Androe Malloch and Mr David Aldinstoun delyvered yr commissione and reported from My Lord Balmerinoch that his Lordship promised he would speek the rest of the Heritors concerning the poynting of the Kirke as to 5 part and proportione yrof imposed upon the Landwards part of the Paroch; as for building of his Seat his (Lo.) said that he had given order to James Scot Mr Wright in Edinr. two year since to build it, but as concerning the furnishing of the eliments to the Sacrament of the Lords Supper his Lo wold give no positive answer yrto.

16 *August* 1660.—There was a visitatione of the grammer school this day 8 days and it was ordained that James Seattoun or present thesaurer should cause buy dailles (*i.e.*, deals) and trees to repair the said school with seats.

Also the Session promised to pay the bypast rent of the said school to the skippers in a short tym qn they gait in mony.

16 *of August* 1660.—The balze Jon Boyd gave in to the poor box 2 rex thalers £5 16/ that he had taken from a Servant woman who would not enter hom to her Mr and Mrs with whom shee had feed her Selffe.

(*Note.*—Here ends the present Minute Book of Mr David Aldinstone, our puritan Session-Clerk. An article on this long-forgotten official appeared in the August 1910 number of our Church Magazine, to which reference may be made. His book covers an eventful period in the history of our Church, and on that account an endeavour has been made to give full quotations from it with such notes as seemed to be appropriate.)

7 *Octor* 1660.—This day the order at the communione was established as follows:—

The bailies Robert Sandelands and Patrick Murray to sitt at the back of the ministers at the head of the Table.

For the Bread . . . . For the coups . . . . For the stooups . . . . To collect at the porch . . . . To receave the tickits . . . . To collect for the poore for both the Saturdayes and Moondayes and all the week throw . . . . wester styll . . . . North styll. To stand at the west end of the Tables to order the people qn they come to the Tables . . . . To stand at the East end of the church at the two pillars to let the people remove from the Table . . . . To bring the wyne to the Table . . . . To attend and to draw the wyne in the Session house.

(*Note.*—The blanks represent names of Elders.)

15 *Novr* 1660.—The wch day James Loccart and James Kerse Skippers for themselves and in the name of the Mrs and Mariners demanded the Session if they had given order and way to the Hammermen to advance their fore seat in yr loft which is greatlie to the prejudice of hearing and seeing of the Ministers preaching to those that are sitters in the north end of the Skippers loft.

(*Note.*—We see from this Minute that the pulpit was now in the middle of the north aisle of the church. The east gallery belonged to the Trinity House.)

29 *Nov* 1660.—It is reportit that the people who dwells at the sign of Noah's Ark keeps an ill house drinking nyght and day; they were referd to the bailies.

(*Note.*—This seems to have been a tavern in the Kirkgate.)

17 *January* 1661.—James Seatone John Gray John Young James Bell and John Watson are appoynted to be at the up-putting of my Lord Balmerinoch his seats in the Kirke qnever they shall be put up at any tym heirafter.

24 *Januar* 1661.—Our clerck is to speak with Alexr Selcrik grave maker to be staffman (that may keep the strange and sturdie beggers out of the town) and if he wil not tak it on him he is to be discharged to mak any graves.

24 *Maie* 1661.—The Presbyterie of Edr. being sensible of the great mercie of God in the wonderfull restoration of our King to the throne of his three kingdomes as they have alredie manifestit the trueth heirof by their cordial observation of two solemne dayes so that they may further testifie their real joy and sincere thankfulness to God for so good a cause and to give evidence that the religion profest in this Kirk to wch there souls cleaved as founded on Gods word doth teach ym loyaltie and to rejoyce in his majesties happiness and prosperitie They doe resolve abstracting from all uyr grounds and considerations singlie to sett about the substance of the dutie and to tak hold for the tym of the occasione of the 29 of May 1661 (the day appoyntit by the parliament for publick thanksgiving) to spend the fornoon of the day in publick worship and praising of God for his great and singular mercie of the Kings Restoratione to his dominiones and pray that he may long and happilie Regne over us. Intimaone heirof was maid upon the Lords day the 26 of Maii 1661.

(*Note.*—There was great rejoicing in Scotland at the restoration of Charles II to the throne of his fathers.)

6*th June* 1661.—William Baird declared upon oath that the deceased B. Elvers and Isobell Rosse were proclaimed in the citidaill church in purpose of mariage.

(*Note.*—This was the church in which the English settlers worshipped.)

13 *June* 1661.—James M'Kean, James Kerse and Mr David Aldinstoune clerck are appoynted to go to the north kirk session upon Moonday nixt and to declare unto them that they may pay for burying yr dead in our Kirk yard since the tym that the Cittidaill began to be builded and to gree for tymes to come or ells to provyd for a buriall part for themselves.

20 *June* 1661.—Alexr. Abercrombie being commissionat from the Maltmen declared that they are willing for their part to contribute for repairing of the Kirke and Steiple in the Kirk and that it be furnished with bells but first that dilligence be used to gait in the Impost of Wynes which is appoynted for that use.

27 *June* 1661.—Ordained to send our two silver basins and four of our silver coups to the North Kirk for yr communion.

1 *August* 1661.—Patrick Murray balie declared that the north Session was at the Councell of Edr concerning a burial place for yr dead and desyred him to speak to our session to sufferr ym to burie yr deid in our Kirk yaird till they be provyded . . . . which was grantit in cais they provyd for ane shortlie.

8 *August* 1661.—The wch day it was ordered be the Sessione that Mr George Kintor our pnt. Minister should have out of the Session to help to pay for his house rent for all bygones the tym he haith been Minister heir the summe of ane hundreth pounds Scots and in all tyme coming during his Ministrie heir (unless it be uther wayes provyded by the Session and neighbours) to have yearlie out of the Session for to help him to pay his house rent the summe of ane hundreth merks Scots.

22 *August* 1661.—David Forbes petitioned the Session that it would please yr wisdoms to suffer him to tak up a schooll for teaching of young children to read and for arythmetick and to teach to keep a compt book and to teach Dutch etc. The Petition was grantit for a tym during the will of the Session but refussed absolutlie to give him any standing sallerie.

19 *Sepr.* 1661.—Gilbert Andersone Sclaiter is appoynted to repair some breaches in the kirke and or Thesaurer is to give him some

moneys to buy lym and sclaits and the Session is to think upo his payment for the Workmanshipe yrof Jon. Gray, Jon. Young, George Farquhar and Jon. Marr or any two of them are appoynted to be with him when he buys either lyme or sclaits.

Jon Marre mason is ordered to give an account of the lym that was in the Kirk yeard, efter that he had mended the Kirk yeard dick.

25 *Sepr.* 1691.—The which day William Campbell in Restalrig gave in a bill of complaint upon Jon Foultoun and Marion Anderson his wife in calling his wife Jean Duncan witch who being called compeard and being interrogat confessit that they had called her witch because (said they) many had called her witch. Also they promised to give in some accusations against the said Jean within a short tym eftir the comunione.

17 *Octor* 1661.—Jon Foultoun in Restalrig gave in som accusationes against Jean Duncan yr anent witchcraft.

7 *Novr.* 1661.—The Session ordained their clerck to draw up Jean Duncan her processe in forme and in order and to be given to William Purves of Widdeslie (*i.e* Woodhouselee) balie of the Barrony of Restalrig.

(*Note.*—This Purves was probably the Advocate who later assisted the bloody Mackenzie in prosecuting the Covenanters. He owned Abbeyhill House. His portrait by Lely is in the National Gallery, Queen Street.)

14 *Nov* 1661.—Jon Aickman of Carny and uther gentlemen of the Custom House petitioned the Session that the Kings seat might be re-edified and that his majestie's servants of the said custom house might have accommodatione to sit behind his majestie's seat.

21 *Novr.* 1661.—The which day the two Ministers Mr Jon Hog and Mr George Kintor the two balies Jon. Jossie Jon. Fullertoune, William Purves of Widdeslie balie of ye Barony Sir Hary Neisbit James Seatone, Andro Malloch, Jon. Gray, James Kerse are appoynted to meit upo Monday nixt to consider concerning the Kings Seat and that the tailyours be warnit for that effect.

(*Note.*—Henry Nisbet acquired Craigentinny House and Estate shortly before this date, and these were possessed by the Nisbet family until sold in 1735 to William Millar, from whom they have descended to the present proprietor, Mr Christie Millar. The Nisbets were a branch of the Dean family, and prominent members of the Session.)

Monday the 25th Novr. 1661.—The wh day these of the Committee, who were appoynted be the Sessione upon Thursday last to meit concerning the Kings Seat, did meit. This Committee doe condescend that the Kings Seat sould be rebuilt in the same loft qr it was formerlie, and that from piller to piller or as it was befor as shall be thought fitt, and that the Taillyours have their own back seats behind the Kings Seat as they had formerlie according to yr anncient right, but they ware ordained to take out the stone out of the fore side of the pillar qron the Sheirs are hewne and to put it in the backsyd of the said pillar laigh beneath the loft As also they were ordained to tak off the sheirs yat is put on in ye fore face of the loft, and put them up below on the pillar at the head of their formost laigh seat qrto John Young yr present Deacon and diverse uyrs Tailyours who were present did condescend and aggrie.

(*Note.*—From this Minute it becomes plain that the King's Loft stood in the South aisle of the church. *Vide* Minute 7 April 1642 *supra.* The tailors had sittings between the second and third pillar counting from the East end of the South aisle. Each in corporation displayed its emblem or coat of arms in front of its sittings. The Shears referred to here as in the front of the tailors' loft are now preserved in the town museum.)

9 *Januar* 1662.—Received from James Seaton's relict for his corpse to be interred in the kirk £29.

Ditto from Rot Threepland for Sir Thomas Thomson's corpse standing in the kirk £05 : 16 : 00

(*Note.*—Sir Thomas Thomson was mentioned above in the Minute of 14 Decr 1637. He was an ardent supporter of the Royalist cause, and had died in London. He was buried in the choir of Duddingston Church.)

Ditto in May 1662 At the communion the two Saturdayes, two Sundays, two moondays and the two Twesdays and 2 Thursdrys *in toto* £276 : 18 : 00

9 *Januar* 1662.—Frae the nynth of Jar. 1662 their was no meittings of sessione and church Judicatories.

(*Note.*—The reign of Charles II was an unhappy one for Scotland. Episcopacy was now being re-established. The persecution of the Covenanters had begun, and was to continue until Episcopacy was ended in 1688.)

8 *Januar* 1663.—The wch day the sessione began agan to sitt be order of the civil and ecclesiastick power.

8 *Januar* 1663. — William Purves of Widdeslie and Balie of the Barony of Restalrig declared that he had orders to cause put up the Kings Seat with all expeditione without delay, qrupon it was ordered at his directione to put up the said seat with ruche dealls as his majesty's seat is in the Abbey Kirk whairfor it was ordered that the Talyours sould ather tak down yr sheirs in ye Piller be east yr Loft or else to cover them with wainscot that they might not be seen and that betwixt and Sunday next. James Bell, wright was ordered to go pntlie about that business in putting up the said seat according to William Purves his directione.

The Cooppers, Wrights, Masons, Fleshers, and Sclaitters gave in a petition to the Session humblie craving their Wisdomes to licentiat them to put out the first Seat in yr loft als farre out as the Traffickers formost Seat is, but the Sessione would give no positive answer till the Kings Seat be once put up as is above specified.

26 *March* 1663.—Mr George Kintor this day declared to those who were present in the Session that he is to be transported to the South Church and Paroch of Cranstoune and that shortlie.

Upon the 10*th of Septr.* 1663.—Mr John Hamilton late Minister of Cramond was admitted and receavit to be Minister of Leith and Parsone of Restalrig be Mr Archibald Turner ane of the Ministers of Edinr. qo preached on these words on the first Epistle to the Thess: 5, 25 "Brethren, pray for us."

(*Note.*—Mr Hamilton was first minister from this date, and was succeeded by Mr Waugh in 1682. His predecessor, Mr Hogg, had been deprived by the Acts in 1662, and was forfeited by the Court of Justiciary for holding intercourse with intercommuned ministers. He escaped to Holland, and died in 1692. An original portrait of Mr Hogg is said to be still existent in Rotterdam. Mr Hamilton appears to have left the church in November 1674, no doubt on account of difficulties arising with the congregation. In 1681 he was appointed Sub-Dean of the Chapel Royal, and in the same year he was translated to the Tolbooth Church.)

17 *Sepr.* 1663.—All former Acts concerning privat contracts privat mariages and penny brydells were ordained to be renued and ratified That is to say first, any who are to be contractit and comes not befor the session upon the session day but are contract at home shall pay to the poor besyd yr pand 2 rex thalers £5 : 16 : 0, secondlie, any qo are to be maried aff a preaching day shall pay to the poor 2 rex thalers £5 : 16 : 0, thirdlie, any who are to be maried making penny brydells shall com to the reader the night befor and at the down taking of yr names consigne Tenne pounds in pand that there brydell lawing shall not exceed ane marke or sixtein shillings at the farthest and if they exceid sixtein shilling the tenne pound shall be confiscat and given to the poor but if they keep order they shall gait up the tenne pound agan.

Upon the 19 *of Septr.* 1663.—Being Satterday Mr John Hamilton our Pastor, Johne Boyd, Jon Penman, Balives, James McKeane, C. George Lantie, James Kearse, Alexr. Tait, Henry Hay, Johne Gray and Johne Young Elders did meitt and considered that the Kirke haith not got in the Impost of the Wynes since the ia/vi fourtieth nyne year and that the Kirk roof is ruinous Therefor they thought it most expedient to draw up a petitione and to give it in to the Counsel the nixt Wedinsday concerning the premises and to speak the Venteners and James Rae for the Impost of the wynes that haith been ventit in Leith these fourteen years bygone etc.

24 *Septr.* 1663.—The which day Alexr. Tait Henry Hay and Mr David Aldinstoun reportit that they were at the Counsell of Edinr and presentit the petitione to there Lo. for the Impost of the Wynes ventit in Leith and by ane gift grantit be King James the

Sixth of worthie memorie to the Town of Leith as in the said gift at mair length bears, wh petition being read and heard and considered there Lo. recommendit to their bailies in Leith to concur with our Church Thesaurer for collecting of the said Impost of all tymes bypast and to come.

5 *November* 1663.—The Bailies George Reid and Thomas Fairholme hes promised this day to get the book qrin the compt of the Wyne ventit and run in Leith is insert for sundrie years bygone and to give it to James McKean and Alexr. Tait to consider yrof for the Impost.

(*Note.*—The Fairholms were a well-known Edinburgh family who owned the estate and mansion of Greenhill, now Greenhill Gardens. The family burial place may still be seen in the garden of Ashfield Villa.)

12 *November* 1663.—John Kerr gave in a bill of complaint against Alex. Abercrombie that he hes wronged him in closing up a light in his gavil (*i.e.*, gable); our pastor Mr Jon Hamiltoun . . . are desyred to visit and report.

19 *November* 1663.—The which day the Bailies George Reid and Thomas Fairholme has promised to concur with the Session for collecting of the Impost according to the Counsells order therefore it was ordered that every Elder and Deacon sould go thorrow yr several qrs and the Balies Officers with ym to concurre be the Balies order for uplifting and ingathering of the said Impost.

10 *December* 1663.—The balie Georg Reid gave in to the sessione for a fyne he exactit from Thomas Lyll for his swyn going in the church yard £5 : 16 : 0.

31 *March* 1664.—Mr John Hamilton our reverend pastor . . . are appoyntit to go to the Towne Counsell of Edr. concerning our land that pertains to our Hospital wch lyeth bewast the citidall who are lyke to wrong us in some part yrof.

23 *April* 1664.—John Wardlaw and Margt Campbell payit at yr privie contract £05 : 16 : 00.

28 *Aprill* 1664.—It was ordered be the Session with concurrence of the civil magistrate that no beggar be seen beggin upon the Lords Day atther at the foir styll nor back stylls of the church nather upon any pairt of the street under the paine of punishment be the civil magistrat and putting them out of the towne by the Staffe man but that they frequent (*i.e.*, attend) the church in tym of divin service the whole Lords day foirnoone and efternoone and efter the efter noones sermone to remaine within yr owne houses. This order was given to the staff man for his warrand.

5 *May* 1664.—The Traffecquers and Tradesmen are desyred to repair yr ylls (*i.e.* aisles) in the Church now in summer weather seeing the Skippers and Maltmen haith repaired yr proportions of the main roofe above yr lofts a year ago.

12 *May* 1664.—William Hopkirk is to enter his repentance in sack cloth and to stand at the church door from the first bell till the third bell be rung in and thereafter to com to the stool of repentance sitting in sackcloth during the will of the presbyterie and session.

15 *May* 1664.—The which day being the Lords day Mr Jon. Hamiltoune our Reverend Pastor did intimat efter the foirnoone sermon that the Sessione did unanimouslie condescend to give Mr John Corser a call to be yr second Minister therefore he desyred that the heritors and whole neighbours of the paroch should meitt efter the efter noones sermon to consider concerning the premises and so the Session and neighbours did convene efter the efternoones sermon Mr Jon. Hamiltone being Moderator (efter in calling upon God) proponit the purpose concerning the premises efter hearing the whole Session and neighbours did with one consent condescend to give a call to Mr John Corser to be second Minister.

23 *June* 1664.—Ordained that no schoolls be in the towne but the grammar school and the Reader's schooll.

Mr David Aldenstone present reader with consent of the session haith deputit Mr John Weir, son to Mr John Weir, sometime minister of Leith, to be master of the readers school during the will of the session.

7 *Julie* 1664.—It was reportit by . . . that they did meet with Alexr. Allan clothier and did settle and aggrie with him that he sould have weeklie for training up six poor ones in the clothier trade the sum of 24s.; and that out of the rediest money of the rents of the new hospital called King James his hospital.

(*Note.*—These six poor ones were children of the Hospital.)

21 *Julie* 1664.—Mr John Corsawr was receavit and admittit to be second minister of Leith; Mr James Reid minister of north Leith did preach (who receavit him) and his text was in the 20 cap. Acts v. 28 "Tak head therefor to yer selves and to the flock."

(*Note.*—Mr Corsawr was second minister from this date until 1669. He succeeded Mr Kintor and was himself succeeded by Mr Cant in 1671.)

12 *Sepr.* 1664.—Alexr. Tait . . . are appoyntit to meit with the masters of the Trinitie House concerning the school rent.

Receavit for the Laird of Udnie's corps standing in our church 2 nights and 2 days £08 : 14 : 00.

8 *December* 1664.—Ordains to intimat the nixt Lords day from the pulpit that no landlord set (*i.e.* let) houses to new incomers and also that none receave servants without testimonials under the pain of censure.

19 *December* 1664. — The wch day Mr Johne Hamiltoune Modr. Mr Johne Corsaur ministers . . . elders appoyntit be the session to meitt with Wm. Johnstoune bailie James Kerse Johne Watsone Skippers to setill and aggrie with them both for yr feu dutie of the fraternitie house (*i.e.*, Trinity House) yei are awand to the session as also for the School rent that the session is awand to ym Did meitt in a Comittie in the fraternitie house and did condescend and aggrie as followeth—That is to say the said Comitie agries with the said maisters of the fraternitie house to pay to them for the bygon schooll rent of the nather hospitall (being the publick grammer schooll) for all years preceiding that they can aither ask or crave preceiding Witsonday 1665 the sum of £46 : 13 : 8 which sum was payit to them ye said day. As also the said maisters acknowledgit that the session of South Leith are superiors of the said hospital and was to pay yearlie to the session superiors yrof £4 in name of few duties as there chartor yrof bears wch. was presentit the said day and that all bygon few dueties was quat to the Mrs and the said Comittie did agrie with the said Mrs to pay them for the school rent frae witsonday 1665 to witsonday 1666 the sume of 20 mercks being but one year.

(*Note.*—The Grammar School met in the Trinity House until 1710. Although the rent was small the Session always had to make an effort to pay it, *vide* Minute 26 November 1657 *supra*. The Trinity House still pay a feu-duty to the Kirk Session.)

29 *December* 1664.—Ordains to translate the Kings seat from befor the Tailyours loft and to put it up befor the pillar fornent the pulpit and part of it before the Tailyours loft and part of it before the baxters loft.

19 *Jan.* 1665.—Ordains that yr wilbe a publick collection for the poor of the hospital who are learning the clothier trade.

21 *of May* 1665.—Intimation was maid concerning the observing of the Sabboth day.

First that no boats barks or any uyr vessells sould sail out the harbour upon the Lords day under the paine of censur both civil and ecclesiastick.

2nd That no persone be found in drawing of watter of wells and carrying from the wells to yr houses upon the Lords day under the paine of lyk censur.

3rd That no vagin (*i.e.* walking) be upon the shore upon the Lords day efter ye efter noones sermon nor upon any uyr part of the street nor in Restalrig nather in Craigend upon the Lords day under the paine of lyk censur.

15 *June* 1665.—David Lorimer and Marie broune payit for transgressing yr brydell lawing £04 : 07 : 00.

Robert Brysone and Agnes browne payit for transgressing yr brydell lawing £04 : 07 : 00.

(*Note.*—"Lawing" means payment, and brydell lawing signifies the cost of the wedding feast. There are numerous minutes on this subject.)

15 *June* 1665.—Mr Johne Hamilton, Mr John Corsaur, C Geo. Lantie, Alexr. Tait are

appoyntit to go to the Counsel of Edinburgh to petitione for a Loan of the Cittidaill Bell because of ye naughtinesse of our bell in ye town's Steeple.

22 *June* 1665.—John Marr is referrd to the baillies for saying in his fearce wrath and anger yat if he knew qr Mr James Sharp's corps were laid he should rug his dead bones out of the grave.

22 *June* 1665.—For as meikle as the present Elders and Deacons haith advanced and payit every ane of them 01 : 10 : 00 to help to build a range seats and table for the Sessioners to sitt in befor ye pulpit therefore they all with one consent and assent doe condescend that every elder and deacon who shall be upon the Sessione in all tym coming (except these qo are presentlie upon the Session) sall pay at their entrie for the upholding of the said seats and table the soume of 01 : 10 : 00.

(*Note.*—The members of Session for many years paid this sum upon their admission to these seats.)

Mr John Hamilton Mod. reportit that he and some uyrs of the Session (who were appoynted) were at the Toune Counsel of Edr. and gave in a Petitione for the loan of the Cittidaill bell, because of the naughtinesse of the bell that we have in the Tolbuith Steeple that cannot be heard be the halfe of the toun for warning of the people to the Church before divine service and uyr wayes and that of themselves they are not able to buy a bell; which petitione being heard and considered it pleased the said honorable Counsell to give and grant to our said South paroch of Leith the bell that was in the weigh house of Edr. for our use and service and with libertie to our said south paroch to dispose upon the old bell for the use of the poor of this our paroch at our pleasure. Qrupon it pleasit the said honorable counsell to grant ane Act yrupon.

Upon the 9th of Julie, 1665 (being the Lords day) The Kings Majestie his proclamaone for a publick thanksgiving throughout the realme of Scotland was intimat from the pulpit for a glorious victory over the fleet sett out by the staits of the unitit provinces upon the 3 of Jun 1665; wch thanksgeveng is to be upon thursday nixt the 13 of Julie 1665.

16 *Julie* 1665.—Alexr. Band, bellman was ordained to ring the first and second bells to sermon both Lords day and week dayes for the space of a quarter of ane houre and the third almost half ane hour.

James fleeming payit in part of payment for the gravin stone that stands at the head of his douchters grave £05 : 16 : 00.

7 *Sepr* 1665.—Intimation was maid of a general fast for the plague of pestilence in the Citie of London and places adjacent and that the Lord may bless this kindgdom with a fair and seasonable harvest that the fruits of the ground may be reapit for the comfort and maintenance of the people.

15 *Febr* 1666.—Mr Robert Pow schoolmr presentit Mr John Alexander to the session to be his assistant and doctor in the grammar school who was admittit and receavit and promisit to be cairful and to attend dilligentlie upon his charge.

(*Note.*—This Mr Alexander, in May 1674, became Session Clerk, in succession to Mr David Aldinstone, who was his father-in-law.)

5 *March* 1666.—Appoints the committee to meit upon wedinsday in ye morning at eight hours to ride the marches in the hillhousefeild and the holy blood acre and to advertise the north session and all uthers who have interrest to be present.

5 *March* 1666.—Ordained to give ane order to the Constable in the Craigend that he may concurr with the elders and deaconnes for visiting upon the Lords day and to tak order with those who vaige yr upon the Craigs upo the Lords day in tym of divyn service.

8 *Julie* 1666.—Intimation was maid of a fast to be keipit upon Wednesday nixt for a happie success to the Kings naval forces against the Hollanders.

23 *August* 1666.—The wch day there was no session becaus yis was the day of thanksgiving for the victorie against the Dutches.

(*Note.*—This refers to the battle of North Foreland where Van Tromp was defeated on 25th July.)

20 *Sepr* 1666.—The wch. day collected be or Ministers, Mr Jon. Hamilton, Mr Jon. Corsaur

C. Georg Lantie, and Henry Haig in the last Lords day for to help to build up or Church yard dicks a hundreth three scoir three pounds 10sh. Scots 163 : 10 : 00.

Receavit from Johne Gilstone Englishe man for to have the corpse of Mr . . . . Mair of Hull laid within the bodie of our church £060 : 00 : 00.

(*Note.*—There are numerous examples of the church being utilised as a mortuary. In this case, probably the Mayor of Hull had died in Scotland and his body lay in the church until his friends came to remove it.)

31 *of Jan.* 1667.—The wch day the Act concerning absents from sesion was renewed that is that everie one who shall be absent out of the session being in health and within two miles of this towne shall pay toties quoties 4/- and every ane being sero (*i.e.* late-comers) to pay 2/-.

But those of the Barrony and uyrs in this Towne who haith labouring of land are to be excused seed time and harvest if it be trewlie maid out that they are sowing in seed tyme and sheiring and leading in harvest utherwayes no excuse.

7 *Febry* 1667.—Collectit from James Ramsay of Bagaig that he was resting to the sessione for his father Doctor Alexr. Ramsay his corpse interred within the church £33 : 06 : 08.

21 *Februar* 1667.—Receaved from Wm. Aitken and Janet Hay for transgressing yr brydell lawing £05 : 16 : 00.

Dito for Arthur Whyt and Agnes Marten yr privat mariag £02 : 18 : 00.

7 *March* 1667.—Marie Sinclare a debotch profane and wicked persone was ordained this day be the Balives Geo. Reid and Jon. Hall to remove out of this towne and paroch and never to be seen heir efter this day under the paine of scourging and publick banishment.

14 *March* 1667.—John Young talyour ane of our sessione and Alexr. Allane clothier are appoyntit to go to Edr. upo Wedinsday nixt to buy cloath to be cloathes to the poor boyes in the hospital. Alexr. Allane is to receave 66 lib scots from our thesaurer to pay for the clothing.

18 *Aprill* 1667.—Receavit from the laird of Stichhill for Sir James Hoom of Echills his corpse standing in the Kirk one night £11 : 12 : 00.

(*Note.*—Sir James Home of Eccles had been slain in a desperate duel with swords on Leith Sands at Seafield. His adversary, Wm. Douglas, younger, of Whittinghame, was arrested and beheaded three days later at the Cross of Edinburgh.)

12 *September* 1667.—Receavit from Mr Charles Lumbesden of a collectione from the sessiones of Dudistone Currie Collingtown and West Kirk for the burnt land in Craigend £18 : 02 : 08.

Dito from Wm. Seatone for transgressing his brydall lawing £2 : 18 : 8.

26 *Septemer* 1667.—Receavit from Janet Maryson for license to sett a hewen stone at Alexr. Abercrombie her husband's head £33 : 06 : 08.

(*Note.*—Mr Abercrombie was a prominent citizen in Leith. His tomb stone stands outside the elders vestry and is the oldest one decipherable in the churchyard.—*Vide* minute, 12th May, 1646, *supra*.)

9 *Janr.* 1668.—The Contract betwixt the Maltmen and Sladders (*i.e.* Carters) was given in to the Sessione to be registrat in the Sessiones Register. Qrof the tenor followeth :—

At Leith the first day of January ia/vi and fiftie years it is appoynted and finallie aggreed betwixt the parties following they are to say, Jon Brown, present Boxm^{r} of the trade and calling of Maltmen within the towne of Leith for himself and in name and behalf of the remanent brethren and Incorporation of the said trade on the ane part, and Jon. Stewart present, Boxmaster of the Sledders of Leith for himself and taking the burden on him for the haill remanent slaidders and Incorporation of the said towne on the uther pairt in manner forme and effect as efter followes. That is to say the said Jon. Brown, boxmaster for himselfe and in name and behalfe foresaid for the soume of money efter specified to be paid be the said Jon. Stewart in name and behalfe foresaid in manner and at the termes underwritten binds and obleishes him for himself and taking the burden on and upon him for the remanent of the said brethren and Incorporation of the Maltmen of the said

towne and their successores to enter and possess the said Jon. Stewart for himself and in name and behalfe of his said brethren and their successors in and to the actuall reall full and peacable possession of these five laigh seats laitlie buildet and possett be the said Maltmen lying under their said loft within the Lady Kirk of Leith upon the South west end theirof within the Baronie of Restalrig and Sherifdom of Edinr. and that by delivery to him of the keys theirof to be in all tyme coming bruckit joyeit and possest be the said Slaiders and yair successors as their own proper seats at their pleasure without any impediment or again calling qtsumever; with full power to their servants present and to come succeeding to them for to settle in the said Maltmen's backloft promiscuouslie with the said Maltmen's servants and that without any trouble or molestation to be moved by any person qtsomever in any sort: As likeways it is hereby expresslie provydit be express provisoun and condition of this present contract that the forenamed Incorparation of the Slaiders shall have full power and free libertie and licence to bury their dead withine the said Maltmens yll (i.e. aisle) of Leith without any interruption to be maid: For the whilk cause above written the said Jon. Stewart for himselfe and taking the burden upon him for the remanent of the said Slaidders and his successors has contentit and payit and deliveryt to the said John Brown for himself and taking burden on him for the remanent members and their successors the soume of a hundred pounds scots money as entry whairof the said John Brown for himself and in name and behalf foresaid grants the receipt and discharges the said John Stewart for himself and remanent Sledders and their successors of the foresaid soume for now and ever And the said John Stewart for himself and in name and behalf foresaid and his successors binds and obleishes him to content and pay to the said Jon. Brown for himselfe and in name of the remanent Maltmen and their successors who sall happen to be for the tyme the soume of fyftie merks Scots money yearlie and ilk yeir to be payit the first day of January in all tyme cuming beginning the first yeirs payment theirof upon the first day of January instant and sua forth to continue in all tyme cuming in the said yeirlie payment, together with the soume of ten merks as for ilk yeares failzie Lykeas it is hereby agreed upon betwixt the said parties that in caise the said Ministers of Leith their Stipends be augmented then and in that case the said Jon. Stewart for himself and in name and behalf forsaid binds and obleishes him and his successors to augment their proportion all pairts accordinglie And in caisse the saids Ministers' Stipends be payit be the Neighbours or utherwayes the said Jon. Stewart for himself and in name and behalfe forsaid and his successors binds and obleishes him to pay proportionallie together with twentie mks yeirlie to the said Incorporation of the Maltmen And consequentlie to be free of the said fyftie mks yearlie Whilk Contract above written. . . . .

(*Note.*—The rest of the contract is in usual form. These contracts were frequently made and this specimen is given because of some unusual expressions occurring in it, *e.g.*, the name "the Lady Kirk of Leith" and the right given of burial within the aisle.)

23 *January* 1668.—The which day intimaone was made at the Session house door be Patrick Thomson kirk beadall that if any person had anything to object against any of the new elected session why they might not be upon the sessione yt they should come presently and they should be heard. This was done three tymes and none appeared to object therefore the new sessione is to be received the nixt Lords day.

Upon the 26 of January 1668 being the Lords day the new sessione was received be our reverend pastor Mr Jon Hamilton after the forenoon sermone and that solemnlie in face of the whole congregaone whose names are to be insert in our register.

The names of the sessione for the yeir 1668, Johne Lord Balmerinoch patrone of the paroche and Balives Walter Cheislie and Johne Oliphant.

(*Note.*—The list of names is then given, viz;—Sands quarter—2 Elders and 2 Deacons; Hill quarter—2 Elders and 2 Deacons; Tolbuith quarter—2 Elders and 2 Deacons; Lees quarter—5 Elders and 5 Deacons; Restalrig—4 Elders including Sir William Purves of Woodslie and Patrick Nisbit of Craigintinnie also 2 Deacons, and Craigend Abbeyhill and Quarrell Holes 2 Elders and 2 Deacons. This Bailie Cheislie was

father of Cheislie of Dalry who murdered Lord President Lockhart.)

30 *January* 1668.—Every Elder and deacon are desyred to visit yr owin quarters every first moonday of the moneth and to report.

Alexr. Tait, theasaurer—John Brown, Bailie of St Anthons.

Ordained 3 courts in the yeir to be holden for St. Anthonies the first fryday of febry first fryday of May and first fryday of Septr.

All absents to pay 4s. Edinburgh no excuse.

Any husbandmen whether in the lanwart or within the toun are to be excused in seid tyme and harvest.

21 *May* 1668.—Received from my Lord Maxwell and Lady Lissie Dowglas at their private mariage £08 : 14 : 00.

6 *August* 1668.—The which day it was ordered be the Session unanimously that Mr John Hamiltoun our present pastor should have yeirlie so long as he serves the cure here to help to pay his hous rent the soumme of ane hundreth lib Scots.

20 *August* 1668.—The Session does hereby not only discharge Mary Borthwick of her weeklie pension as ane ordinar poor but ordaines her to be put out of the hospital.

3 *Januar* 1669.—Intimation was made be Mr John Hamilton our reverend pastor that their should be a contribution collected the nixt Lords day for the reparation of North Berwick harbour.

(*Note.*—The collection came to £26 14s.)

The twenty fifth of Jany. 1669 received of Imposts of the Wynes run in Leith from Alexr. Swyntoun according to his subscryved accompt given in this day which is for Imposts preceding Martimes 1667, £151 : 05 : 04.

18 *feberwary* 1669.—James Grahame, Robert Douglas, John Burton, are continued masters of the hospitall notwithstanding they are not upon the sessione this yeir and Mr John Hamiltoune ye Modr. was desyred to speak to the said Mrs that one of them keep session every sessione day per vices.

25*th Febrii* 1669.—The which day James Auchterlony for the Traffecquers, Johne Watsone for the Seamen, John Vallantyne for the Maltmen and Hugh Mossman for the trades compeirand before the Sessione declared that by trew information Mr John Corsaur late second minister at this Kirk was transported from hence to Dalgetie and ordained minister there, And they desyred the Moderator to declair his judgment therein who accordinglie satisfied them in their desyr by declaring that Mr John Corsaur was not only received and admitted minister at Dalgetie but also before his admission there had got the Bishop of Edinburgh his demissione verball and done in tyme of Sessione betwixt 10 and 11 houres in the forenoon Andre Malloch and Patricke Thomsone Witnesses with diverse others And therefore the forenamed persone protested to be free of the Stipend conditioned to be payit to him from Candlemas last before which tyme the said Mr Corsaur was admitted to Dalgety as aforesaid and that intimatione of the vacancie might be made out of the pulpit the nixt Lords day to which the Session unanimouslie consented and ordained the same to be done accordingly Whereupon the said parties forenamed took instruments in the clerks hands of yr protestatione and immediatlie after session letters were sent to Mr John Corsaur to signifie the same.

3 *June* 1669.—James Auchterlony Traffecquers Captain John Taylor Skipper, Hugh Mosman, Tradesmen cam to the Session and desyred that they might have the concurrence of the Session in the collation to their calling of Mr John Scot sometyme minister at Oxnam to be second minister here; the session efter mature deliberation gave this return that soe soon as the four incorporations of Leith should be unanimous amongst themselves in that call and that Mr Jon Scott should give obedience to the Kingdom, satisfie his ordinary my Lord Bishop of Edinr. and restrict himselffe within these bounds to be kept betwixt our present reverend pastor Mr John Hamiltone and him that then they would concurre willinglie with them.

(*Note.*—The rule of Episcopacy is disclosed in these minutes. For various reasons no second minister to the church was appointed until 1671.)

22 *Julie* 1669.—George Lawrie . . . . were appoyntit to wait upon the Lord Advocate upon Moonday nixt at 7 hours in the morning concerning the impost.

19 *Augt.* 1669.—The wh day James Provand present beadil of this church did complain upon Alexr. Hay and his wife in that they did take out and put in womens chairs and stooles in the bodie of the church, and receaves benefit for the same, which ought not be done by them, but is onlie James Provands part as baddell and servant to the session therefore the Session this day discharged the said Alexr. Hay and his wife to meddle with any stool or chair within the bodie of the church ather to sett in or tak out in all time coming and ordaines the said James Provand to have a cair of honest women's chairs and stools in ordering them aright and to receive some consideration yearlie from those that aught the said chairs and stools.

28 *October* 1669.—Alexr. Tait . . . . were to speak with the mrs of the hospitall concerning Henry Capell who haith a mynd to build a litle house upon the hospitall land at the back of the Citidall.

(*Note.*—Henry Capell's family no doubt gave their name to Cables Wynd, which was formerly Kapples Wynd. The spelling varies.)

4 *of August* 1670.—Bessie Cochrane gave in her Decree of Divorce contra John Scot to be registrat in this our church Register Qrof the tenor follows.

(*Note.*—Here comes in the decree of divorce pronounced by the Commissars of Edinburgh "having "dispensation grantit to them by deliverance of the "Lords of Counsell and Session in respect of this "feriot and closse tym of vaccance.")

25 *August* 1670.—The which day it was ordained to the session to writ a letter to Mr Thomas Wilkie, Minister at Galashiells qrof the tenor followeth :—

Reverend Sir :—

Please the Magistrates Ministers session and neighbours of the four incorporationes of Leith with consent of the said sessione are willing to give you a call to be second minister of the south church of Leith, provyding that you will be willing to accept of a call. Thus I am ordered to writ these few lynes unto you, Sir, be order of magistrates ministers session and neighbours so expecting a returne of premises with all expeditione, I committ you and yr labours to the protection of the Almightie and restes,

Your loving and obedient servant,
Da. Aldinstoune.
Clerk to the session.

5 *Februar* 1671.—The wch. day (being the Lords Day) Mr Andrew Cant, younger, was receavit and admitted to be second minister of the south paroche of Leith be Mr Johne Hamilton parsone of Restalrig and first minister at Leith (be order of the Bischop of Edr.) who preached on these words in the 13 of hebrewes 17 verse "Obey them that haith the oversight over you."

(*Note.*—Mr Andrew Cant, M.A., Aberdeen, was second minister until his translation to Trinity College Church in 1679. His successor was Mr Kay, appointed in 1681.)

5 *Octor* 1671.—Jon Burtone bailie of St. Anthons, Archibald Hutsone clerck yrof David Bruce thesaurer Alexr. Swynton Tho. Fenwick elders and Mr David Aldinstoun session clerck were ordered to go to Newhaven to hold a court yr the morne. Which was done the 6 of Octor and convenit som vassalls yr who were ordered to cum in to our thesaurer and to pay their feu dueties.

Lykwayes the key of St. James his chapel yr was takine from the vassalls yr and delyvered to our thesaurer David Bruce to be keepit be him or any succeeding thesaurer and that none sould be buried in the said chappell in all tymes coming without leave askit and given.

12 *Octr.* 1671.—The wch. day James Graham, Alexr Air, and James Tait pnt masters of the New Hospital for the tym, and there successors were by the session ordained and by their presents the session doeth commissionat and ordain the said Mrs and their successors yearlie in their places to collect uplift and receave from the Vinteners in Leith the pettie Impost of four pounds upon each tun of wyne toppit and sold in Leith in small, conforme to his Majesties gift theirof for all yeirs bygone resting unpayit and in tyme coming

with full power to the said Mrs for the tyme being to doe everything anent the premises that the session by virtue of the said gift or law of this Kingdome might doe, the said Mrs and their successors being always comptable for their intromission to the session and that when and how soon the said session begines to rear up the Steeple of the said Kirk allenarlie and for defraying of the charges thereof and the session doe hereby desyr Alexr. Swyntoun last collector thairof to concurre with the said Masters for the first year for bringing them in use, and if need be the Session declares that they shall joyne ane of their number yearlie thereafter.

19 *October* 1671.—The wch day the Session absolutlie refused to accept and receave Lambe to be a portioner in the hospitall (efter the death of Margt. Gibson) conforme to his petition foundit upon a contract past betwixt Bischope Lambe and the session (long ago) in respect be expresse provisione of the said contract none can be receavit but one who is born in-dweller in Leith and being the children or relicks of traffiquers, maltmen and tredsmen.

11 *August* 1672.—The wch. day being the Lords day Mr Jon. Hamilton parson of Restalrig did intimate publicklie efter the forenoon service that there would be a visitatione of or church the next Weddinsday; and therefore warned the whole heritors elders and deacons and neighbours of the whole paroch to be pnt the said day.

AT THE SOUTH CHURCH OF LEITH the 14 *of August* 1672.—The which day Mr George Henry preached (it was appoynted) on Mathew cap. 5 v. 13th.

This day the Lord Bishop and with him all the brethren were present except Mr Jon. Patersone, Thomas Wilkie, and Jon. Wilkie. Efter prayer be the Lord Bishop Mr Jon. Hamiltoune the minister was interrogat if he had upon the last Lords day given intimation publicklie to the congregatione of the visitatione this day to be keept; ansered he had and requyred all concerned to give attendance this day. Therefter the roll of the session was givene in, and they called upon. All of them were present except such of them who were sick or over sea. The ministers and eldership being removed report was sought of the brethren appoynted to revise their session book, whose report was, that they found the book very exact, and orderlie in all their proceeding; that the ministers and session were carefull to see all manner of vice borne downe and punished; had specialie care to see the Lords day strictlie observed and sanctified both in the towne of Leith and landward part of the paroche by sending some of their number every Lords day to take notice how the Lords day was observed; suffered no strangers to reside within the bounds without sufficient testimonials produced from the paroches they cam last frome; verie carefull to see the rentes belonging to the Church uplifted and employed to pyous and charitable usses, so that they with their clerck Mr David Aldinstoune deserved high commendation for their order and care.

The ministers being removed and the sessioners remaining they were interrogat anent the ministers doctrine and conversation who answered that they were abundantlie satisfied with them in both but that they desyred Mr Andrew Cant to condescend more to the capacitie of his hearers.

The sessioners being removed the ministers were called in and interrogat if the eldership did duly observe the tymes of meittings of the session; answered they were most diligent and very careful to see disciplin impartialie executed aganst all kind of offenders; and that their Bailies did carefully give concurrence and assistance to them in everie thing that concerned the good of the paroche; who being all called in were by the Lord Bishop comended for their cair and dilligence.

The ministers and session were also enquyred how the fabrick of the church was keept in repair and maintained and how the elements for the communion were furnished. To which they answered yt they had a settled and fixed way for the one and for the other and that besyde they had laitlie built new kirk yard dykes and whereas the impositione upon every tunne of wyn by King James his gift sould be employed in the first place for building of the Steeple of the church they were ordained to doe so who promised the same accordingly.

Thereafter the parochiners being called once and again and the third tym that if they had any thing to lay to the charg either of the ministers or of the sessioners they would now compear and inform the said Lord Bishop and the bretheren thereanent.

(*Note.*—There follows here an accusation against Mr Cant, who in his own house had struck Mr John Mackqueen after they had called each other liars. Later on Mr Mackqueen was colleague with Mr Cant in Trinity College Church. The parties shook hands, and the report, after going into details, closes as follows :—)

Whairupon the Lord Bishop bravelie admonished him to be watchful over his wayes and never to fall in any such offence again which he promised to do; as also that he should apply himself in his preaching to the capacitie of his hearers and that he should be more dilligent in visitting the sick and in catechising.

Then after prayer and thanksgiving to God for his presence and assistance to this meitting the visitation closed.

(*Note.*—The Lord Bishop of Edinburgh was George Wishart, minister of North Leith, who was driven from his church for refusing to sign the Covenant. He was the author of a Latin Memoir on Montrose, a copy of which was suspended round the neck of the great marquis at his execution. Wishart was buried in Holyrood Abbey, where his magnificent tomb may still be seen.)

26 *August* 1672.—Receavit from the bailie of Annandale his Chamberland for his Lordship's corps lying in the Church a certain tym £27 : 12 : 00.

25 *Nov.* 1672.—Receavit from Alex. Tait of fallen pands when he was thesar long since. £69 : 00 : 06.
Dito from henery hay of fallen pands when he was thesaurer £34 : 16 : 00.
Dito from henery hay the money that was collectit for the Scots incorporaon in London £144 : 17 : 08.

19 *December* 1672.—This day the Mrs of the hospitall declared that they have sett to James Cooke prinmaker some houses in the hospitall heigh and laigh and haith drawne up ane Tak (*i.e.* Lease) yrof betwixt them which is to be registrat in this our register when they shall requyr at any tym heirefter Qrto the session gives their consent.

23 *Jan.* 1673.—In tymes coming it is thought expedient that the present mrs of the hospitall at the annual election of the new mrs sould give in their own leits of each corporation and not to be leitit be the session in tymes coming but decline not the consent of the session.

(*Note.*—The session and the masters of the hospital were chosen at the beginning of each year, the new session being nominated by the old.)

10 *Febr.* 1673.—The which day Henery Hay pnt. thesaurer receaved from Jean Watt relick of David Bruce late thesaurer the chartour chist together with the other chist yrin and the 2 silver bassinns 5 silver coups and silver laver.

(*Note.*—Henry Hay's Close ran parallel with Cables Wynd and now forms part of Bernard's Distillery.)

27 *Feby.* 1673.—Receavit from James Standfield for giving libertie to burie the corps of ane Mr Closeberrie in the church £60:00:00.

It was ordered that the pnt thesaurer henery hay and all succeeding thesaurers efter him shall have at the least at a privat mariag two thallers and at a privat contract at the least ane thaller and when any are to be maried that the night befor yr mariag they go to the thesaurer and consigne ten pounds Scots that they may not exact for their bridle lawing more than 16/8 Scots and if they transgresse the 10 lib to fall or to be left to the thesaurer his discretion according to the quality of the persones.

13 *March* 1673.—The wch day our thesaurer Henry Hay was desyred to tak the silver laver and the silver coup that runs out and to make a silver basen yrof for the use of baptismes.

2 *May* 1673.—The lampe ridge and Bishop Lambes land at the black stones were visited be Mr Andrew Cant, Minister, Robert Douglas Elder, Bailie of St. Anthonies, Henry Hay, Thesaurer, Geo. Tait and Mr David Aldinstone.

(*Note.*—The black stones are the black rocks at Seafield.)

22 *May* 1673.—Christian Cranston douchter to the Lord Cranstoun compeared and confessed her sin with Mr Alexander Seatton, brother to the Earl of Wintonne; shee was referd to our magistrate to be put in prisson.

The wch day Mr John Lyall was admittit to be doctor in the gramer schooll and to keep a musik schoole during the will of the Session.

27 *Julie* 1673.—The wch day being the Lords day the session did meet efter the efternoon sermon concerning Mr Georg Sinclair to be schoolmr of the gramer school and Mr John Hamilton proponed the question whether the programe that was set out for any that would com to dispute for the place should continue; it was ansered by pluralitie of votes that it should be extinct and that Mr Georg Sinclare should be schoolmr without dispute seeing it is known that he is qualified for the place.

21 *August* 1673.—The schoole is to have the vacantte (*i.e.* vacation) from this day untill the second moonday of September nixt.

25 *Septr.* 1673.—The which day it was ordered be the sessione that our Thesaurer C. Henry Hay cause build ane pew upon the sessiones expenses for Mr And. Cant, minister and his wyfe besyd the parson Mr John Hamilton his seat and the seat qr the witnesses to the baptisms sit.

25 *November* 1673.—David Hody petitioned the Session to give him license to sett a stone at the head of his wifes corpse in the churchyard; he was ordained to speak with the thesaurer and to agree with him for a certain sum to the poor whairupon his petition was granted; the sum is £05 : 12 : 00.

27 *Novr.* 1673.—The Session considering the desyr proponed by severall of the neighbours and representing each respective incorporation anent the expenses and charg they are put to in sending and keeping at board their children to Edr. for learning of vocal and instrumental musick through the want of a fitt person for teaching the same in this place which mainlie is the occasion by want of a sallary, therefor enact and ordain that in all tym coming the particular sums following be payed for the same to the thesaurer viz., ilk person of what degree or qualitie soever that craves the benefit of privat baptism to any child by opening the kirk door for that end at any tyme except at ordinar tym of sermon shall for the said opening of the door and benefit foresaid pay 30s. scots by and attour what formerly was in use to be payit. Item ilk person that craves the benefit of privat mariag by opening of the kirk door at any tym but at sermon tym as aforesaid shall pay the lyk sum of 30s scots by and attour two dollars and all dues formerlie payit in such cases. Item ilk contract that is privat contract by the pairties that come not to the session shall pay 30s scots by and attour the dues formerlie payit in such cases; and lastlie everie contract before the session shall pay 30s. Scots with the 30s. formerlie payit (except in case of povertie of parties wch is referred to the discretion of the thesaurer) All wch sums so to be payit the thesaurer is ordered to put in a box by itself to be forthcoming for payment of a sallary to ane fitt person to be chosen be the session for keeping ane schoolle for teaching vocall and instrumentall musick from tym to tym and for the present the session nominates and appoynts Mr John Lyall to that charg and is to have 100 merks as yearlie sallary and to accept of quarter payments from the scholars according as they are in use to pay in Edr.

4 *December* 1673.—Mr Georg Sinclair condescendit that his schollers shall go out the gramer school to the musick school to Mr John Lyall.

(*Note.*—For instruction in music the scholars of the grammar school went to Mr Lyall three times in the week; on Tuesdays, between eleven and twelve, and on Thursdays and Saturdays at 2 o'clock.)

12 *Febr.* 1674.—These were nominated to speak with Robert Mill, master mason, concerning the re-edifying of the Steiple . . . .

Ord to pay Mr Georg Sinclair schoolmr his half years stipend from Lambes to candlemes 100 mks.

Also to pay Mr David Aldenstone reader his quarters stipend from Martemas to Candlemes £33 : 06 : 06.

19 *Febr* 1674.—The parson Mr John Hamilton reported quhat was done at the com-

mittee upon moonday last concerning the re-edifying of the steiple and that a mutual contract is to be drawn up betwixt the session and Robert Millne, master mason for yt effect.

(*Note.*—The church steeple is first mentioned in the Minute of 6th May, 1614, *supra*. The little old-fashioned Dutch steeple which now took its place is familiar to every one from the pictures of the old church. It remained as an appendage more than an ornament down to the year 1836, when it was taken down as unsafe, owing to the foundations giving way. It was then 24 inches from the perpendicular. Mr Robert Mylne of Balgargie was the King's Master Mason who built the modern part of Holyrood Palace. He also built the Signal Tower at the end of the Shore and the tenement No. 10 Shore, where his initials "R.M." with date, 1678, may still be read. The son of this Robert Milne was a member of the Episcopalian Session in South Leith. It is a question, not free from doubt, whether the royal arms presently in the west wall of the tower were built into the steeple of 1674. An old seal of 1598 shows the Scottish arms above the doorway of the church—*vide* Church Magazine for February 1910. These may have been destroyed in 1674, and the arms of King Charles II. built in their place and again built into the tower when the church was restored in 1848. The opinion more generally entertained is that these are the arms of Charles I. built in 1633 when a new pulpit was prepared "becaus of ye King's cuming." *Vide* 31 January, 1633, *supra*).

19 *March* 1674.—The wch day the Sessione resolved that the ministers sall goe allong with the elders threw ye toun for collecting the impost for repairing of ye steeple. The sessione earnestlie desires the Balive William Binnie to cause ye several incorporationes to meet upon moonday nixt to deliberate concerning Mill Mr Mason his securitie for his re-edifying of the Steiple.

(*Note.*—In applying the wine tax for the repair of the Steeple the session were following the precedent set in 1615—*Supra.*)

26 *March* 1674.—Continues the report of the meeting of the four incorporationes conserning their consent for re-edifying of the steeple.

14 *May* 1674.—The session ordains the thesaurer to pay to the relict of Mr David Aldenstone 50 mks scots as a quarters salarie due to her said umqll husband.

(*Note.*—This minute records the death of Mr David Aldinstone, the most eminent session clerk of our church. He applied for the mastership of the grammar school on 13th April, 1629 *supra* but was unsuccessful; and he was also unsuccessful in March, 1635, *supra*, when he applied for the readers place. His appointment as session clerk was made on 18th May, 1643, *supra*, and it was during his tenure that some of the most eventful chapters of our church's history were enacted, *e.g.* the Covenant, the plague, the occupation by Cromwell, the building of the steeple. It is interesting to notice that his connection with the church extended from one period of Episcopacy to another. Owing, no doubt, to his advancing years, the Register was already being written by his son-in-law, Mr Alexander, who became his successor in office.)

14 *May* 1674.—This day upon a bill given in for filling the vacancie of the precentors place the sessione enacts and declares that they will only pay to any that sall be elected to succeed in that place ten merks scots zeirlie which with his casualities is all that he is to expect.

21 *of May* 1674.—The said day the sessione upon a bill given in be Mr John Alexander for succeeding his father-in-law as precentor here after mature debating and deliberatione he was unanimouslie elected and admitted upon the conditions following, viz :—that he is only to expect as set salarie ten merks yeirlie as by the act of the 14th instant Item that untill he learne more perfectly musick for precenting he make tryall for and finds out one to sitte by him for that end.

(*Note.*—Upon receiving this appointment as precentor, reader, and session clerk Mr Alexander resigned his place as teacher in the grammar school.)

28 *of May* 1674.—The session ordaines that the elders and Bailzies sall meit upon Tuesday nixt and give in their money gathered for contributions to the steeple building to the thesaurer.

16 *of July* 1674.—The which day a petitione was given in by severall of the neighbours for closing up the entries of the church yard that beasts may not get into it which was referred to the nixt sessione day and in the mean tyme order given to discharge C. Watsone to bring any of his beasts into it.

23 *of July* 1674.—The Sessione ordains the Staffman to poynd every beast he sall finde in the church yard till this day eight dayes and cawse them pay a sixpence for his own use toties quoties.

13 *of August* 1674.—The which day upon a complaint made by Gilbert Storie against Andrew Brown who he alleaged did damnifie him by the down taking of ane old house lying contigus with his, the Session made a visitatione upon the ground and after consideratione of the matter did ordaine the said Andrew to find caution to the said Gilbert for cost skaith and dammage before he proceided any farther and in the meantime discharged any more stones to be carried away from thence and the said Andrew Brown was ordered to prison for his irreverent carriage towards the Sessione.

20 *of August* 1674.—The which day of sessione upon a supplicatione for that effect given in unto them by Andrew Brown allows him to be released out of prison.

The Session ordains the clerk to wryte and goe betwixt and this day aught days to Sir Wm. Purves and the Laird of Craigintinnie and in the sessiones name to desyr their concurrence in the Landwart and Craigend towards the contributione for re-edifying the Steeple.

3 *Septr.* 1674.—The sessione desyres the theasurer to get in what money he can that is owing to the sessione and to make it up what it wants of the soume of fyve hundred pounds scots to give Mr Mill in part payt. for his building of the Steeple and the sessione to repay to the treasurer what he deburses of his own for that effect.

3 *of September* 1674.—Receavit at the Mr of Balmerinos chylds baptisme £06. 14.00.

(*Note.*—Balmerino House in the Kirkgate was partly taken down to make way for the Roman Catholic school, the parts removed including the court entering from the Kirkgate and the staircase tower. Part of the house is now occupied by Mr M'Dermott. The carved stones form a rockery in the garden, where one of the old trees of the mansion may still be seen.)

10 *of September* 1674.—Receavit from Patrick Jonstoun for the lady . . . Marquess of Dowglas corps lying in the session hous £26. 2.00.

12 *of Novr.* 1674.—The which day Mr Andrew Cant desyred that the Session would look out some way of easing him of some part of the burden of the whole duties of the ministrie in the congregation in Mr Hamiltons absence.

The Bailies and Session are to meet on Saturday at nyne o'clock about it.

19 *Novr.* 1674.—Mr Cants desyre being again this day considered it was concluded that the session shall meet on Saturday next theiranent and that (if it be then found fitt) intimation sall be made out of the pulpit on the Sabbath day nixt that the incorporations may meet in the session house after the afternoone sermon the said day with the session and consider what course sall be taken in the matter.

(*Note.*—The reason for Mr Hamilton's absence from the church cannot now be discovered. He was imprisoned and did not return to the church until September 1675.)

31 *December* 1674.—The whole session unanimously agrees and enacts that no person shall henceforth have libertie of burying within the kirk without paying before the opening of the door to break ground the sum of 50 merks scots for the poor in readie money.

(*Note.*—Burials within churches were from time to time prohibited by the General Assembly. Such burials, however, continued to take place owing to the value attached by families of rank to the privilege of having their relatives buried apart. It is said that the Rev. David Lindsay was buried in the south aisle near to the present pulpit. In the north aisle a stone built into the wall pointed out the burial place of James Kendall, skipper in Leith, who died in 1674.)

7 *of January* 1675.—James Stevin of monthlie coll. (*i.e.* collection), viz.:— - - - - . 23 : 8 : 0
James Finlayson of ord: coll: - 19 : 4 :
From Jon. Brown Skipper for his Seat for anno 1675 - - 12 :
From Baillie Dewar for his daughters private marriage - 5 : 16 :
From Alex. Lamb for transgressing his brydell lawing - - 5 : 8 :
From Alexr. Air of pawns - - 16 : 14 : 8
From Alexr. Swyntoun of Impost money - - - - - 237 .

From the Elders and Deacons of the contribution gathered by them for the steiple building 624 : 6 :

From the vassals of St. Antons and St. James his chappell from the 30th Jan. 1674 to the 26th Jany. 1675 conforme to the Rental Book and part accompt thereof - - - - - 218 : 18 : 2

From John Burton that he received for Alexr. Swyntouns burying in the kirk and of Legacie - - - - - 200 :

14 *January* 1675.—The said day the old thesaurer Henry Hay promised to compleit the sum of two thousand pounds scotts to Mr Milne for part of payment of the Steeple building and the session to give him securitie for what he shall deburse out of his own for that effect.

14 *of January* 1675.—The session ordains the beddell diligently to keep their seat and let no man into it untill they first be served and to close the kirk yard doors everie night and to advertise the clerk whenever their is any private marriage.

11 *of Feberwary* 1675.—It was voted about the north east style (becaus of the abuse which the churchyard frequently sustaines by the neighbours breaking up the lock and catbands thereof and setting it open) if it shall be built up or not and it was concluded that it should be built up.

Ordained that every member of the session that is absent from the session table the whole Sabbath day shall pay 4s. scots.

4 *of March* 1675.—The Session ordaines becaus some are backward for paying the impost that generall letters be raised and that those that are refractorie be yrupon charged to make payment of the same.

12*th March* 1675.—The elders of Craigend allowed libertie to place the pew against the wall at the no. side over agt my Lord Balmerinochs seat.

(*Note.*—These pews were in the north aisle. In a plan of the church sittings preserved in the Session rooms the Craigend sittings are shown as west of the sittings of the Earl of Moray, the successor of Lord Balmerino.)

18 *March* 1675.—Upon a complaint made against Robert Craig, staffman that he suffers all beggars that pleases to come and beg in the toun and that when he receives the charitie at burialls he detaines it from the poor and that he gave reproachful words to ane honest woman in the toun becaus shee ane day called him "Scourge the poor" the said Robert is dischairgit be the session to receive any more of the charitie at burialls for the poor and putts him out of his office abowt the church untill he be sensible of his misdemeanors.

8 *of Aprylll* 1675.—It is appoynted that Mr Cant, James Stevin and with them the session clerk shall go to the Craigend on Monday next for gathering of their contributione to the rebuilding of the Steeple.

15 *of Aprylll* 1675.—Roger Mowat and James Douglas skippers are ordained to wait on the basins on Sabbath nixt for gathering the contribution for the relief of Walter Gibson and John Kid out of the Turks slaverie.

6 *May* 1675.—Alexr. Selkirk who was cited for abusing some of elders and giving them ill language when they reproved him for the ill-making of a grave the Session orders that he shall go to prison and acknowledge his fault.

6 *of May* 1675.—The whole deacons of the session are ordained to meet on Monday nixt at nyne a clock in the forenoon (and to be with them Mr Andrew Cant our reverend pastor) and cause the poor in yr severall quarters come their that they may see them and consider their conditione.

20 *May* 1675.—The staffman is to warn all beggars belonging to the toun to come to the said committee that they may receive their badges.

(*Note.*—The lists of the beggars and the poor were gone over each year. The beggars were a special class who received badges from the Kirk Session, which entitled them to go through the parish soliciting alms.)

24 *June* 1675.—The elders were this day desyred to put the folks in mynd that those

that have not given to the Steeple that they may give and those that have given too sparingly that they may give more.

15 *of July* 1675.—The beadle upon a complaint that he does not call ane elder or deacon to the church door when there are any private mariages or baptisms was yrfor rebukit.

The session haveing during the tyme that the steeple was a building caused close up the the north east door of the kirkyard for keeping out of beasts, the steeple building being now finished they do enact that the said door shall again be opened that people may have ye wonted entrie that way to the kirk.

12 *of August* 1675.—The Skippers haveing given in a desyre to the session that they would repair the school in timber work the session this day condescends that if the Skippers will make the said reparations of timber work they will give them so much more yeirlie rent for the school viz:—they will give them yeirlie the alrent (*i.e.* annual rent) of 300 lib. scots.

9 *of September* 1675.—The qlk day John Paterson and Jonet Young gave in a desyre to the session to get back their pawns which was refused because they gave nothing to the poor at their private marriage albeit they promised the same.

9 *of September* 1675.—The Session having desyred Mr Andrew Cant to preach the whole diets and undergo the other duties of the ministrie during Mr John Hamilton's confinement restraint and absence which he having performed and Mr Hamilton being now (blessed be God) reponed the session does most heartily thank Mr Cant for his pains.

(*Note.*—Mr Hamilton, the first minister, was imprisoned probably because his sympathy with the Covenanters gave offence to the authorities. His seat in the church had during his absence been given to the "commissioned officers that quartered in the town," and intimation was made to them of Mr Hamilton's return so that they might find accommodation elsewhere.)

16 *of September* 1675.—Generall Major Munro and the rest of ye commissioned officers in ye toun haveing this day desyred the session to allow them a seat in ye kirk for yr accommodatione the session resolved that the ministers and thesaurer with some others of the elders sall speak with the deacon of ye taylors for their fore seat in the loft to be given them for a tyme.

16 *of September* 1675.—One Rachel Tennant og to Bishop Lamb on ye mother syde haveing this day supplicated the session to be preferred to the mortificaon made by the said Bp. the session refuses to admitt her as having any title or right yrunto by the provisiones of the contract in respect yt by the same all are excluded from the said benefite who are not born indwellers in Leith and being the relicts or children of seamen maltmen or tradesmen—but yet they refer ye said supplicant to the masters of the hospitall for some charitable supply to be given her quarterly.

(*Note.*—The descendants of Bishop Lamb made frequent claims upon the Session. In connection with his mortification *vide* Minute 15 February 1638, *supra.*)

7 *of October* 1675.—The session this day ordains that the severall elders and deacons shall take a speciall care of the poor in their respective quarters especiallie our oun poor born amongst us and sall advance to them for the supply of yr necessities weeklie not exceeding sixpence to any one of them which is to be refunded to them every nixt session day following.

28 *of October* 1675.—The masters of the seamen having addressed ymselves to the session to know what the session will doe anent the repairing of ye school in timber works as flooring desks and such things the session hath appoynted to meet with them the two ministers the thesaurer and the clerk to be with them.

4 *of November* 1675.—It was agreed that the sessione shall upon their expense repair the school in desks for the masters and children and sall lay a part of the floor and shall pay for the said school fourtie mks scotts yearlie to the Skippers. And the Skippers engaged to repair the said school in glasse windows and maintain the same in all tyme coming.

9 *Decr* 1675.—Mr John Hamilton to visit a piece of ground of David Stevinsons qron he intends to build a peat house.

Mr John Alexander precentor having given

in a petition for the salarie which his umqll father-in-law had the session hath promised they shall endeavour to raise it off the heritors by letters of allocatione or else, if that fail, to pay it out of the box as formerly.

(*Note.*—*Vide* Minute of 14 May 1674, *supra*. At the same time the salary of Mr Allan, Doctor of the Grammar School, was raised to 150 merks yearly.)

16 *of December* 1675.—On tuesday nixt Baillie William Carmichell hes promised to come doun and go thorow the toun for the contribuone to the Steeple and the moderator Mr Andrew Cant and the thesaurer and the elders of the respective quarters and the clerk are to go along with him for that effect.

30 *December* 1675.—Compeared James Dempster and declared against John Robertson (whose wife died about six weeks agoe and being thrice proclaimed upon Janet Trotter was intended to be married this day) that his wife's ghost hath severall tymes appeared to him and commanded him to go to the ministers and session and beg that his marriage might be stopt, averring that the said John had murthered his wife and had brybed him with half a crown and promised him some more to hold his peace; the business being criminall the session referred it to the baillies.

20 *of January* 1676.—The said day Henry Hay gave in a bill to the Session that they would cause David Stevenson their vassall observe the act of councell in building his forestair, viz, that he build it all of stone and lyme and that he come no further out in the street with his said stair than the rest of the neighbours are to have been allowed; the session ordains the two ministers, the baillie of St. Anthons ye thesaurer . . . to go presently after the session and see how the business is which was accordingly done the said day and the said David being found to have transgressed the act of councell and to have come further out in the street than his neighbours he was inhibited to proceed any further in his building untill further consideraone were had thereupon.

27 *of January* 1676.—St. Anthons court is ordained to be keeped on fryday come aught dayes and to begin at nyn a clock in the forenoon.

3 *of feberwary* 1676.—St. Anthons court was holden in the session hous be the baillie James Hamilton the ministers thesaurer and clerk being present and another court ordained at Newhaven his day 8 dayes.

St. Anthons Court was held at Newhaven the 11 of feberwary be James Hamilton baillie and our reverend pastor Mr Jon Hamilton and the thesaurer with the session clerk being present.

2 *March* 1676.—Ordains all the weeklie pensioners that are common beggars to be scraped out of ye roll.

9 *March* 1676.—The order at the Communion: *In primis* to sit in chairs at ye head of ye tables at the minister's backs the baillies Wm Carmichaell and James Graham.

To stand at the head of the tables beside the ministers for decencie and ordering of the people James Cockburn and Hugh Watt.

To stand at the south and north pillars at the east end of the tables to let the people out James Gray and James Heggie.

(*Note.*—The other arrangements were as usual; the collections amounted to £158.)

6 *of Apryle* 1676.—Compeired Thomas Stark (who was cited for his mills going on ye Sabbath morning) and alledges yt the mill was not grinding any stuff but yt ye water was accidentally let on upon ye mill by occasion of a young mans watering of an horse and yt ye mill doors were not opened from ten a clock at night on ye Saturday before and this he undertakes to prove ye nixt session day.

13 *of Aprile* 1676.—Compeired Thomas Stark and produced his witnesses in the foresaid proces and in the first place one William Valentyne who refused to swear but declared that the mill was disrigget on Saturnday at night and ye mill doors locked and the clap off and yat yr was no stuff grinding in ye mill.

John Merton being also examined upon oath anent ye matter declares yt he saw nothing but that a man watering a horse put off the clowse and yt ye water ran on upon ye mill wheel but cannot tell whether yr was any stuff in ye hopper or not becaus he was at a distance (other evidence was taken).

These witnesses being examined the session put it to a vote if the said Thomas Stark should be assoilzied and it was carryed by the vote yt he be assoilzied the thing not being intentionall but accidentall and casuall, But the said Thomas having miscarried towards baillie Wm. Carmichell in presence of ye session James Hamilton becomes cautioner that he shall bring him to the baillie yis afternoon and caus him give him satisfaction.

(*Note.*—This was the period of Lauderdale's persecution. The Rev. John Greig of Skirling, Peebles, was brother-in-law to this Thomas Stark and had just been apprehended and imprisoned on the Bass for holding a Conventicle in Stark's house at Leith Mills, *i.e.* above the Junction Bridge. This no doubt was the cause of Mr Stark's miscarriage towards the bailie.)

27 *Apryll* 1676.—The qlk day Archbald Hutson gave in to the session a Seal for ye papers, made of silver with this inscription SIG ECCLES AUSTR LETHEN SS ANTH ET JA TER SUPP.

(*Note.*—No impression of this seal is known to be in existence now. As superiors of considerable tracts of ground, the Kirk Session had frequent occasion to issue charters to which they appended their seals. Compare Minute 15th September 1642, *supra*. The inscription means, "seal of the church of South Leith, superiors of the lands of St. Anthony and St. James.")

18 *of May* 1676.—The whole trades gave in a supplication to the session to take some course anent ye unfreemen that live in ye Yardheads within ye bounds of ye superioritie by whom (they alledge) they are damnified (*i.e.* injured) in yr respective trades; the session referrs ye bill till yis day eight dayes.

(*Note.*—There are several Minutes on this subject which recalls an almost forgotten chapter in our social history. The incorporations had a monopoly of trade and manufacture in the town and all who were not members were unfreemen, and forbidden by law to engage in any kind of business within the town. It was the monopoly claimed by the Edinburgh incorporations to the exclusion of the inhabitants of Leith which created the whole grievances of the latter. Evasion and invasion on the one hand and jealous vigilance on the other make up the history of the relations of the two communities. It was considered to be in the interests of the crafts that each should reside in a particular part of the town and be distinguished by a special dress.)

13 *of July* 1676.—The said day it being delated to the Session yt Jon Scott Quaker had upon Sabbath last caused play his wort in his brew house and also had vented many blasphemous speeches against ye sacraments and ministers of ye gospell the session remitts to ye baillies to search ye matter and punish accordinglie.

(*Note.*—This was a case of importance and appears again in later minutes.)

17 *of August* 1676.—The pillorie for publict repentance being unhandsomely open before below ye thesaurer is this day ordained to cause cover it with a daill or two.

Mr George Sinclair Schoolmr gave in a desyre this day to ye session yt they would make a visitaone of ye school to see ye childrens proficiencie which ye session hes ordained to be made to morrow at three a clock in ye afternoon.

24 *of August* 1676.—This day Baillie Wm. Carmichael gave in a accompt anent John Scotts business who was referred to him for breach of ye Sabbath day by brewing or playing his wort yrupon and many blasphemous expressiones against ye sacraments and ministers of ye gospell and produced ye depositiones of many sworn witnesses qrby ye guilt is found cleirly proven and ye session did heartily thank ye sd baillie for his great pains taken in ye examinaon of ye affair and refers ye said John Scott and his servants to ye sd baillie to be civilie punished by him according to ye crime and withall ordaines ye beddall James Provand to warn ye sd Jon Scott to ye session against this day eight dayes.

(*Note.*—John Scott was fined by the Bailie in a hundred dollars and banished from the town for brewing upon the Sunday and answering when challenged for it by the bailie and Mr Hamilton the minister that "he might as weel brew on the Sunday as Mr Hamilton "might take money for going up to a desk and talking "and throwing water upon a bairns face." As John Scott continued unrepentant the bailie arrested and seized eighty bolls of his malt. The case is referred to in Mr Campbell Irons History Vol. II., p. 135.)

3 *September* 1676.—On ye Lords day three of John Scott's servants were publictly rebuked in face of ye congregaon for breach of ye Sabbath day by boiling ye wirt yrupon at yr maisters order and were absolved.

8 *of Septr.* 1676.—St. Anthons Court was held at Newhaven—What was done is to be found in ye clerks books of that Court.

12 *of October* 1676.—Robert Craig Staffman for enhansing to himself ye poors money yt honest people gives at burialls and other occasions is referred to ye thesaurer to be examined yranent aud if found guiltie (as he is said to be) to be depryved of any benefits out of ye session box heirafter.

9 *November* 1676.—The Session advertised James Provand the beadle to acquaint ye whole seat keepers yt they keep in order ye children in ye respective places of ye kirk when they make much noise and disturbance in ye tyme of divyne service and especially Robert Craig Staffman was peremptorily comanded to go about through ye whole kirk and have a cair of it.

23 *of November* 1676.—A committee is appointed to meet at Archbald Hutsons house to consider ye differences betwixt ye weavers and ye shoemakers anent ye shoemakers putting yr arms below on ye weavers loft.

(*Note.*—Each incorporation decorated its sittings with its coat of arms. In this case it was found that the shoemakers were in the wrong as the loft above them belonged entirely to the weavers who were taken bound to paint it and prevent dust from falling down on the worshippers below them.)

30 *November* 1676.—The session this day gives liberty to the shoemakers to put up two pillars on ye head of yr seats with a board upon ye top yrof for putting on yr arms yrupon but ye maltmen's consent is to be had yrunto.

4 *January* 1677.—Robert Robertson of ordinary collection, viz:— - 16 : 12 : 00
Received from Jon Pentson and Helen Allan for brydell laying 5 : 16 :
Received from ye chappell of St. Anthonies and St. James Chappell from ye of January 1676 to ye of Jany. 1677 conforms to the Rentell book and part compt yrof in all - - - - - 208 : 17 : 11
From James Tarbet for his Seat rent for 1676 - - - 12 :
From George Skein for his Seat for 1677. - - - . 12 :
From Provost Milne for his Seat for 1677 - - - - - 12 :
From Alexr. Abercrombie of Composition for his own and his Wyfes Infeft in yr lands in the yaird heads - - 14 :
Received for eight pound of doits belonging to the poor - 4 :

(*Note.*—Doyts were Dutch coins worth a twelfth part of a penny. Their use was confined chiefly to church collection purposes.)

25 *of January* 1677.—A committee is by the session appoynted to be on moonday next at nyne a clock in ye morning in ye session hous consisting of two of each incorporation viz. . . . . to consider anent ye ordinar poor of ye place who are all ordained to be warned to be present by yr respective deacons.

(*Note.*—At the beginning of each year a regular routine of business was gone through, including the elections of the Session, the Treasurer, the Bailie of St. Anthony, the Masters of the Hospital, the Keepers of the Charter Chest. The lists of the poor and of those licensed to beg were also gone over to determine "who needs and who not and who of them needs most and who least.")

22 *February* 1677.—The qlk day ye moderator Mr John Hamilton being desyred proposed to ye session yt some convenient seat might be built for ye Laird of Wariston and his familie in the church and ye business being put to a vote, it was carryd yt yr should be a convenient seat built for him.

(*Note.*—The Laird of Warriston was Jasper Johnston, who resided at Restalrig and was afterwards elder for that district. He was probably a son of the famous Johnston of Warriston. Warriston is situated north of Balerno, and has no connection with the place of this name at Inverleith.)

First of March, 1677.—The Session being desyrous to have the small impost in Wynes set, (*i.e.* let) desyred ye baillie of St. Anthonis ye Thesaurer and Charles Murray to wait upon ye baillies at yr conveniences for setting yrof to any that will give most for it.

8 *March* 1677.—The maltmen made an address to ye Session that ye shoemakers sign might be altered in regard it prejudges them, the session yrupon granted that if ye shoe-

makers shall not rectify yr signe it shall be quyte cut down and taken away.

(*Note.*—The shoemakers arms were taken away at this time but restored in September of the following year on "a board upon two pillars of timber at the inward end of their pews." In an old plan of the church sittings the places are indicated where the shoemakers, hammermen, tailors, etc., put up their arms.)

12 *of Aprylł* 1677.—James Cunningham made a resignation of some lands into ye session hands as superiours yrof to grant new infeftments yrupon to himself and his wyfe in liferent and to ye airs in fee to be gotten between ym which failzieing to the longest liver of them two.

17 *May* 1677.—The session appoynted a committee to go up and enform my Lord Provost of Edr and ye Dean of Guild anent ye sessions right unto a piece of ground at Newhaven feued out to Thomas Crawford who being building yrupon is stopped by ye Dean of Guild.

1677, 19 *July.*—This day Maire Bothwick is ordained to be put out of ye hospitall for abuseing ye rest of her neighbours yrin and is depryved of her weeklie pension.

(*Note.*—This Minute shows that the pensions could be revoked, although the point was stoutly contested at a later date. On 22 March 1739 there is a minute about expelling a pensioner, Jean Finlayson, because she "frequently creates a great deal of disturbance and uneasiness in her drink unto her neighbours in King James Hospital," while certain other women were also to be expelled "if they do not reside and continue in their rooms within the Hospital.")

9 *of Awgust* 1677.—The said day Mr George Allan school doctor having petitioned ye session for a libertie to set up a heed stone at his umqll wyfes grave the session grants ye petn. and withall desyres that he may alwayes supply ye room of ye precentor Mr Jon Alexr whensoever he is necessarily away preaching.

This day Robert Craig ye Staffman for several misdemeanors is dischargit his office about ye church and session and John Mackean is to be warnit be ye beddell to be heer this day eight dayes to be received in his place if he will embrace it.

13 *September* 1677.—Mr George Sinclair ye grammar school master having supplicated ye session for ye suppressing and putting away of all private schools out of ye town becaus of ye great damage qch ye high school sustains yrby, the session ratifies all ye former acts made for that effect without prejudice to ye precentor's priviledge for a private school which they still allow.

16 *September* 1677.—Our reverend pastor Mr John Hamilton did from ye pulpit advertise all parents to have a care yt yr children play not on ye streets on ye Sabbath day and all masters to have the like care of yr servants.

15 *November* 1677.—George Schein having entered his publick repentance ye last Lord's day indecently under a disguise is ordained to be cited to ye nixt day.

15 *of November* 1677.—The said day ye Elders and Deacons of the several quarters where ye Vintners dwells are desyred by ye session to go to ye said Vinters and shew them that if they will not come to ye thesaurer and pay their bygone impost betwixt and this day eight dayes, that ye sessioun will set it (as this day they have resolved) unto some person that will cause them pay.

27 *December* 1677.—The thesaurer is this day desyred to agree with Thomas Fenwick anent ye Impost who has offered 700 merks for ye thrie yeirs bygone and ye present year now running, it always being allowed unto him in ye first end that ye thesaurer has already received of bygones.

(*Note.*—The report from the vintners not being satisfactory the session took offers from all "who had a mind to take the said impost in order to the setting yrof." Two parties came forward and an offer of 200 merks yearly was considered but ultimately a set (*i.e.*, lease) to Fenwick was arranged on the above terms.)

3 *of January* 1678.—Alexr.

Abercromby of Ardcoll -	17 : 17 : 00
Received from Thomas Mouat and Agnes Innes for transgressing yr brydall lawing -	3 : 12 : 00
Received of ye bygone pettie Impost - - - - -	84 : 00 : 00
Received of ye seat rents belonging to the session in ye church for ye year 1678 -	90 ; 00 : 00

Received for ye Feuduties of St. Anthones for anno 1677 - 59 : 00 . 00
Received from Wm. Lamb his rent for anno 1676 - - 25 : 00 : 00
Received from George Storrie his rent for anno 1678 - - 51 : 00 . 00
Received from James Hodg yt he owed the session with ye half years bygone al rent - 103 : 00 : 00

17 *of Janwary* 1678.—The said day the reader Mr John Alexr. with the sessions consent devolves his priviledge of privat school keeping over upon David Niven dureing their pleasure.

17 *January* 1678.—Mr George Sinclair ye grammar schoolmr having petitioned ye session to come and visite ye school and see what ye childrens proficiencie is, the session appoynts the 4 of Feberwary nixt for yt effect.

7 *of March* 1678.—The qlk day ye session ordaines ye thesaurer and any other of ye elders yt he can convenientlie get with him to subscryve the tack (*i.e.*, lease) of ye impost at Archibald Hutson's house betwixt ye session and Thomas Fenwick as soon as they can.

(*Note.*—The tack was signed on 14th March and provided that the 700 merks should be paid one half at Lammas 1678 and the other half at Candlemas 1679.)

4 *of July* 1678.—The qlk day Mr George Sinclair grammer schoolmr haveing presented unto ye session several of their acts extracted at their order for exterpating and putting away all men-schools out of ye toun (excepting ye grammer school and ye readers school now devolved upon Mr David Niven) and desyreing ye sessione concurrence with his humble desyres unto ye magistrats of ye place for bringing ye same unto an effectual issue the session does earnestly recommend it unto ye magistrats that by yr authoritie they may cause extirpat all ye said men schools excepting as is excepted and ordains their clerk to give an extract heerof to Mr Sinclair to be by him presented to the magistrats.

29 *August* 1678.—The session ordained to cause make a timber great box to be set at the church porch at burialls to receive ye charity of ye defuncts friends.

(*Note.*—It was customary to have a poor box in churchyards into which contributions were put in lieu of burial fees. Examples of these boxes may still be seen in the Canongate and Calton burial grounds.)

19 *of September* 1678.—The thesaurer is ordained by ye session this day to give to Nicols Grecian a priest in Candia a Dollar.

3 *October* 1678.—The ordinar committee is appoynted to meet ye next Moonday at ye Cantore at nine a clock in ye morning.

10 *October* 1678.—The said day a Bill given in to ye session by Mr Alexr. Hay to have ye allowance and encouragement to keep a musick school the session allows ye libertie and promises him all ye encouragement the can.

5 *December* 1678.—This day an order of Secret Councell was received for a solemn fast and humiliatioun to be kept ye 18 of this month for averting of Gods judgments threatened against us.

12 *December* 1678.—Agnes Arthur contracted upon Andrew Neilson and he yrafter being taken with ye Turks and dying at Algiers, the said Agnes petitioned ye session to get back yr pawns qlk ye session found very reasonable and therefore it was grantit.

23 *of January* 1679.—John Burton and his brother Mr Alexander Burton both of them made offer this day by James Hamilton commissionat from them for yt effect to ye session to give each of them an hundreth merks scotts in order to ye getting of a bell to put into our church steeple qlk was very thankfullie accepted by the session and ye James desyred by ye session to return both of them most humble and heartie thankes in ye sessiones name.

13 *of February* 1679.—A desyre being given in to ye session this day that ye Lady Newton might have Mr Cant's seat for the use of her familie dureing the vacancie of ye second minister's place the session grants her said desyre she paying for ye same according to the worth during her possession.

(*Note.*—Mr Cant had been appointed second minister in February 1671, and was now translated to Trinity College Church. This period is known in Scottish history as the "killing time," because of the ferocious persecution of the Covenanters.)

27 of *Feby.* 1679.—This day ye session desyred ye four incorporationes to meet against tuesday nixt and look out for a second minister whom they will think fit to pitch upon that report may be made to ye session this day eight dayes.

27 *of March* 1679.—Captain David Gillies did this day generouslie offer unto ye session to whiten ye whole church walls within the pillars, smooth the windowes and paint the roof they giving him in only two hundred merks of the same which offer was most kindly accepted by the session who thanked him most heartlie for ye same and promised to give him in ye sd sum for yt effect.

27 *March* 1679.—The beadell was ordained to keep fast ye porch door of ye entry to ye churchyard at all tymes yt ye churchyard may not be abused by boys or others; and John Brown's door entering yrto is to be blocked up with a pad lock.

(*Note.*—As matters of history it may be interesting to recall that on 3rd May 1679 Archbishop Sharp was murdered on Magus Moor; and when the news of Claverhouse's defeat at Drumclog reached Edinburgh, the walls of the Castle were strengthened by Robert Mylne, the royal "Master Maison." On 9th June the trained bands of Edinburgh and Leith were instructed to be in readiness at "first tuck of drum" to march to Leith Links, where, on the 13th June, to the number of 4000, they took the oath of allegiance. This was in preparation for putting down the rising of the Covenanters, and the battle of Bothwell Brig followed on 22nd June 1679. The account for horses and carts pressed into the King's service at this battle shows that the Incorporation of Carters in Leith was put under requisition for a large number, and some were also taken from the "poor breuars, both in toun, Leith and the shire.")

2 *October* 1679.—The precentor Mr John Alexr. having desired £5 sterling in order to his voyage to London the session all consented that he should have ye same.

29 *January* 1680.—A petition being given in to the session by James Lamb for a yearly allowance out of the mortification given by his great grandfather to the session and hospital the session took it to their consideration.

(*Note.*—This petition was refused by the session, who had afterwards to justify themselves before the Lord Bishop of Edinburgh for their action.)

The Session appoints to pay ye boxmaster to the Skippers £80 Scots for the rent of the grammer school from Mertimes 1676 to Mertimes 1679.

29 *April* 1680.—Marjorie Smith entered her publick repentance in sack cloth at ye kirk porch and on ye pillorie.

(*Note.*—This party continued in this penance until 17th October.)

8 *of July* 1680.—Mr Alexr. Hay musick master petitioned ye Session for his house rent promised by the session and incorporations . . . were appointed to go to Mrs Hutson his landlady and give her satisfaction.

29 *July* 1680.—Becaus there are severall of ye elders that wait not upon ye session ye clerk is ordained to give a list of yr names to the magistrats that they may take course to cause them attend upon the same.

16 *September* 1680.—It is ordained to be intimated next Sabbath day that until we get bells of our own the North Church bells will ring for our Thursday sermons.

16 *Septr.* 1680.—It is ordered that those who have not as yet given yr contribution for our bells to ye steeple come to David Gillies at his house and give it.

7 *of Octr.* 1680.—The said day ye session desyred ye thesaurer to speak with the glazier and see what is needful for repairing ye church windowes.

4 *of November* 1680.—The Moderator and clerk with the elders and deacons of the respective bounds are appointed to go throw Restalrig on Tuesday next, and the Craigend on Friday to collect what voluntar contribution they can get there for the steeple and bells of ye church.

23 *Decr.* 1680.—William Bell is ordained to be cited for setting up his school without the session's licence and an alledgit abuse of a chyld in his school by him.

31 *March* 1681.—The session having considered a petition of Thomas Neilson, hand bellman that he might enjoy the whole benefit he receives of the bell ordain ye sd Thomas to

pay ye relict of James Pringle his predecessor in office the third part of all the money he receives for ringing ye said bell to burials.

(*Note.*—When a parishioner died, the beadle, or hand bellman, went round the town to proclaim the death. The formula was as follows: "Brothers and "sisters, I let you to wit that there is a brother "departed this life at the pleasure of Almighty God. "They called him . . . ; he lived at . . . All "brothers and sisters are expected to attend his "funeral, which is to take place on . . ." A funeral was an event of public interest, generally attended with drinking and riotous behaviour. This was due partly to custom and partly to the many gloomy superstitions which lingered amongst the people, and drove them to indulge in excesses. Thus there was a superstition that the spirit of the last person interred watched the churchyard until the next funeral. It may be that the custom, like the ringing of church bells, originated in the superstition that the sound of bells scared away evil spirits. It may be added that the post of town bellman was abolished about 30 years ago. The last bellman was Willie Flucker, whose intimations the children used to greet with a chorus of amens.)

5 *of May* 1681.—The wch day ye moderator earnestly desyred ye session yt they would seek for a second minister for he would not and could not serve any longer for the whole charge.

19 *of May* 1681.—Whereas the four incorporations having agreed among themselves for ye tonguing and hingeing of ye bells upon one of each incorporation to settlle and agree with the smiths and wrights thereanent the Magistrates and session do heartily agree therewith and recommends it to them to set quickly about the work.

9 *of June* 1681.—On Monday next at 8 o'clock in ye morning a St. Anthons Court is ordained to be held in the session house for considering some bills of complaint belonging to the session jurisdiction.

21 *July* 1681.—Our bells being now hung the session this day ordains ye great bell to be rung for five a clock in ye morning and eight at night; for ye sermons they ordain ye smallest bell to be tolled for ye first bell; it and ye bell of ye middle size for ye second bell; and for ye third bell all ye three together.

The session also ordains yt the bellman shall have 12s. scots for ringing any of ye bells to a buriall and any that will gratifie him further he is allowed to ring all the three for them on such occasions if it be their desire: And withal it is ordained that whoever requires any of ye bells or all of them to be rung to the buriall of their friends shall pay 2/6 for that priviledge to ye use of ye poor.

(*Note.*—The church bell is still rung in the mornings at a quarter past five, and in the evenings at eight o'clock.)

11 *August* 1681.—The incorporations are appointed to meet and speak with a clockmaker that has offered to make a clock to our church steeple.

(*Note.*—There are references to a clock as far back as July 1594. The new steeple was now being completed in the traditional fashion.)

This day was given by the session to ye beadle of North Leith four leg dollars for ringing their north bells to our thursdays sermons during ye time yt we wanted bells of our own.

The session ordains ye sounding boards in ye bell-cast of ye steeple to be taken away yat ye bells may be ye better heard over ye town; but yat ye thesaurer first cause anoint ye frame and wheels of ye bells to save them from ye hurt of winds and rain.

18 *of August* 1681.—The said day ye contracts betwixt ye session and ye clockmaker came in to be subscribed but were delayed till this day eight days or this day fortnight till they be further considered upon but in the meantyme ye session desired ye clock maker to goe on in making ye said clock.

Upon the 28 *of August*, Mr Charles Kay second Minister of St. Cuthberts being called to be second minister here had his edict in order yrunto publickly read in face of ye congregation and a copy yrof affixed upon ye most patent door of the church yt none might pretend ignorance.

(*Note.*—Mr Kay was an Episcopalian minister, and as such was destined to wage an historic conflict in South Leith Church. He was deprived in 1694 for non-jurancy. His appointment to the church would indicate that the majority of the session from choice or necessity were inclined towards Episcopacy.)

1 *of Septr.* 1681.—The qlk day ye schoolmr Mr George Sinclair haveing proposed one Mr

John Bonar to ye session to supply as gramar school doctor in ye room of ye deceast Mr George Allan ye session allowes him to take a whyles tryall of him and he to get 100 merks of yeirlie salarie with his casualities from ye parents; and one Alexr. Craufurd being proposed as an English doctor unto ye said school and for arithmetick and wryting ye session allowes unto him 50 merks of yeirlie salarie with his casualities from ye childrens parents.

(*Note.*—This curious minute indicates that the session were divided between Episcopacy and Presbyterianism. Mr Sinclair himself was a Covenanter. The division within the session led in a few years to a complete secession on the part of the Presbyterians.)

8 *of Septr.* 1681.—Compeired John Wallace souldier in Capt. Balfours companie latelie come from Tangier and being sworn depones yt Thomas Hog, Elizt Armours husband was killed at Tangier and yt he saw his head (as ye manner there is) brought in in a basket.

(*Note.*—This evidence would be taken because of the woman's wish to marry again.)

15 *of Septr.* 1681.—The qch day there was no session in regard that Mr Charles Kay was that day instituted and admitted our second minister by ye ryght reverend Mr William Annand Dean of Edinburgh.

29 *of Septr.* 1681.—James London of ordinary collection -	21 : 16 : 4
From George Storie a yeires rent of some aikers of the Session possessed be him and yt for 1680 - - - - - -	52 :
From Thomas Murray for ye bells at his mothers burial - -	1 :
From George Abercrombie for his private marriage - - -	4 : 06 :

6 *October* 1681.—The said day ye contracts betwixt ye session and William Muir clock maker were subscribed for his making of a clock to our church Steeple.

28 *Octr.* 1681.—David Calderwood and any other member of ye session he shall chuse to take with him are desired to speak with ye carters that they may give in their hundreth merks which it is said they promised towards ye clock making.

The church officer is ordained to tell William Paterson that Mr Charles Kay our second minister must have his seat which he hes possessed during ye vacancie of ye second Ministers place and yat his money will be refunded back to him for ye time that he wants ye use yrof till ye term of his entrie yrunto.

One of everie corporation that are sessioners are appointed to speak with painters to paint our horologe board and to report concerning any of them that will do ye work best and cheapest.

10*th November* 1681.—The which day (after praying). Mr John Hamilton, Mod. Mr George Porteous who painted the church demanded 40 pound scots for drawing some scripture sentences upon the church walls, which he alleges were not in his bargain when he transacted, the session refers the business betwixt them and him to the Magistrates to deal in it with him, and to report the nixt session day.

10*th November* 1681.—Captain John Watson and David Gillies for the Seamen, James Dalgarne and William Aitken for the Maltmen, John Stewart and John Cleugh for the Trades and for ye Traffecquers, John Dudgeon and James Louden are to get in money from their several corporation for payt. of the clock and horologe boards and guilding yrof.

26 *January* 1682.—The qlk day ye session *nemine contradicente* think fit that in tyme coming no money belonging to the poor either by collection or otherwayes shall be employed towards the payment of any house rent in any manner of way but to their own proper use excepting ye schoolmaster and church servants.

Upon ye Lords Day being ye 5th of February 1682 the edict of Mr James Waugh parson of Kirknewton was publickly read in face of the whole congregation in order to his being parson of Restalrig and first minister of South Leith in the church of ye said paroch yt if any person had ought to object against him they might repair to the high church of Edin. ye 15th of ye said month betwixt ten and eleven in the forenoon and be heard.

(*Note.*—Mr James Waugh became first minister on 25th May and remained in South Leith until 2nd

May 1689. He was the first minister removed at the Revolution for disobedience to the civil power.

16 *Feberwary* 1682.—The said day ye sessions pensioners . . . are ordained to cleanse ye street befor and near ye church entry twice a week or else to lose their pensions, and for that effect ye thesaurer is ordained to buy two shovells and two coal rakes.

The session thinks fit that there be only one doctor in ye grammar school who may be qualified to teach grammar arithmetick and a good hand of wryting and to have for his pains 100 merks besides his casualties from ye parents.

The session enacts in ratification of what was done at St Anthons Court yt none except their own vassals shall be henceforth buried in St James's chapell there, except they first pay a shilling sterling to ye use of our poor.

23 *February* 1682.—Captain James Fenwick having obtained a piece of ground at Newhaven belonging to the session containing between twentie fyve foot in length and in breadth eighteen lying betwixt Thomas Crawfords new house there on the south, and ye sea on ye north, and he having resigned the same over to Gilbert Hay at Newhaven, the session consents that ye said Gilbert have the sd piece of ground, he paying yeirlie for it a few dutie 20s. scotts which with his former feu amounts in all to four merks scotts.

9 *March* 1682.—The session ordains a quarterly visitation of ye gramar school to be made and ye beadle to warn ye master always thereof ye night before.

16*th of March* 1682.—The session this day approves ye committees request in appoynting the theasurer to collect the session pettie impost from Mertimes 1680 till Mertimes 1681, and yt ye elders and deacones of ye respective quarters assist him yrin and whatever necessar expenses he is at in the ingathering of the same the session hereby oblidges ymselves to allow it unto him.

20*th of April* 1682.—Gilbert Hay in Newhaven having purchased a piece of ground at Newhaven from ye session to build upon, and haveing in the building exceeded the bounds measured forth unto him by ye session they do this day fine him for his transgression in twentie merks scotts money which he instantly payed in, as is above charged and therefore was allowed to go on with his work qch was before stopt till he gave satisfaction.

James Whyte wright having given in formerly an accompt of wright work wrought by him about the clock horologe boards and cradles which work being surveyed at ye sessione and ye sd James's appointment, is found to extend to four score pounds scotch and it being found by an Act of Session dated ye 10th of November last yt ye defraying of expence of the workmanship and materialls forsaid was recommended to two of everie incorporation present in ye session ye foresaid date the session does this day renew ye said recommendation to ye said persons that they may in their respective incorporations collect money speedilie for payt of the said James Whyte for his work and materiall forsaid.

4 *of May* 1682.—The session do appoynt yt henceforth they who putt a turf on ye graves of yr friends buried within this churchyeard pay £3 scotts for ye behoof of ye poor.

(*Note.*—It was usual to leave churchyards in a neglected state, and the session do not appear to have encouraged attentions paid to graves.)

11 *May* 1682.—The session taking to consideration the great disturbance made in ye church by boys and girls playing in time of divine service appointed to be intimated from ye pulpit yt yr parents take care of ym oyrways ye session will take particular notice of ym and referr ym to ye majestrats.

25 *May* 1682.—Mr James Waugh was admitted parson of Restalrig and first minister here by ye Rev Mr Robert Scott minister of ye church of Holyroodhous.

(*Note.*—The Minutes do not disclose what became of Mr Hamilton. From other sources we learn that he became sub-dean of the Chapel-Royal in May 1681 and was later translated to the Tolbooth church. With the appointment of Mr James Waugh, A.M., both charges were now occupied by Episcopalian ministers.)

1 *June* 1682.—By approbation of ye session leets are to be presented for a school doctor to be chosen.

The school boys are to be readie on a call to say the catechism in ye church.

22 *Jun* 1682.—The session enacts (*nemine contradicente*) that yr shall be a school doctor and a precentor in two distinct persons because one man is not able for both charges without neglecting one of ym.

The session this day anent ye schoolmr leeting . . . to tryall referrs to ye ministers to try ym and for trying ym in arithmetick Bailie Hay Capt Ross and Capt Burnet.

It being this day represented by the Mrs of ye seamens hospital that yr is 100 merks of school rent owing from Martimas 79 to Whitsonday 82 the thesaurer is desyred to pay it as soon as he can.

(*Note.*—The seamen's hospital was the Trinity House. King James Hospital belonged to the other three incorporations, hence the three masters. In a Minute of the year 1793 it is called St. Anthony Hospital.)

29 *Jun* 1682.—Mr Alexr Hay is this day accepted off and admitted to ye office of precenting and being clerk to ye session.

Recomends to ye two ministers to speak with Mr Sinclare schoolmr anent his taking of ye Test.

13 *Jully* 1682.—The session desyres . . . for ye tryall of ye schoolmr of ye High School who is to be written for.

(*Note.*—Mr Sinclair, the master of the Grammar School, refused to take the Test, preferring to remain a faithful covenanter even at the cost of losing his appointment. What this meant to him we may judge from the fact that later on he became an object of charity in the town.)

3 *August* 1682.—Mr Wm Hay is this day accepted of and admitted to be schoolmr to ye Gramer School of this town having received a satisfactory testimony of his life and conversation from Dumfermling where he was last.

10 *Sepr* 1682—Agnes Drumond did compear in face of ye congregation in sackcloth and was rebuked and referred to ye Kings Advocate.

Sunday ye 26th Novr. 1682.—It was intimated this day yt ye monthlie contribution should be collected from house to house.

14*th December* 1682—It is recommended to ye majestrats that they cause proclaim through the town by tuck of drum that no landlord shall recept any tennant but those who shall free the toun of burthen and yt no randie beggar be recepd by any of this toune.

21 *Decr* 1682.—This day ye members of session were pressing a new leet but for certain onerous causes yt ye moderator Mr Ja Waugh did impart to them they condescended to a continuation of this session for ye ensuing year excepting two or three who desyred to be off.

15*th February* 1683.—The Baillie engadges againe to speak to ye incorporations yt were deficient in paying the money for ye clock.

29 *March* 1683.—This day the sessione finding yt yr authoritie over ye hospitall is infringed by Gilbert Storrie ane of ye Mrs yrof in his setting a Tack of ye hospitall house to ane merchant in Edr. without either ye consent of ye session or of the other two masters and in prejudice to ye poores interest did yrfor vote yt that Tack given be ye sd Gilbert shall be invalid and doeth further enact yt none of the mrs shall ever give a Tack after this without asking ye sessione advyce and consent withall ratifies all former acts except this.

9 *August* 1683.—Recommended to ye sessione by ye Magistrates for paying ye glazier for repairing the glass window.

13 *Septer.* 1683.—The session (Mr Chas. Kay moderator) this day appoynted ye thesaurer to pay to the parson yearly £100 scots as his house rent which was in use to be paid to his predecessors.

To Wm. Robertson a poor scholar 14s.

15 *Novr.* 1683.—Barbara Mitchell in Spences land to be cited.

22 *Novr.* 1683.—Mr Samuel Ankrom, doctor of ye Gramar School gave in a petition for augmentation of his salarie the session in contemplation of his great pains allows him 100 merks yearly as was in use to be payed to his predecessors.

6 *Decr.* 1683.—Thos Henderson, cobler in Tods-hole close who is for ye pnt in ye Tolbuith to be examined.

13 *Decr.* 1683.—Rachael Prede is referred to ye constable of Craigend to be imprisoned.

3 *Jary.* 1684.—David Robertson deacon given to a poore woman lying att ye towne end in a lodge 12s. pr week.

30 *Jany.* 1684.—It being reported to ye sessione yt Robert Douglas vintner who was elected one of ye Mrs of ye Hospitall will not accept of his charge because he is in a publick employment in collecting ye shore dues the session thinks fit yr be a new leit given in this day eight dayes.

7 *Febry.* 1684.—Janet Fraser in ye Peat Neuk to be cited.

21 *Febry.* 1684—The thesaurer is appoynted to give each of the foundlings half a quarter till ye weather become more fair.

21 *Febry.* 1684. — Compeared Robert Douglas soap boyler and accepted of his being Mr of ye Hospitall and promised fidelitie and yr was full power given to ye whole Mrs to seek in all ye Hospitalls money and debts qtsoever belonging yrto.

28 *Feby.* 1684.—The session this day taking to yr consideration yt ye poore in ye Hospitall are slighted and Gilbert Stories compts not taken in which is occasioned by a difference amongst ye pnt Mrs anent ye keeping of ye box and keyes, it is yrfor enacted that for this year Thos. Murray keep ye box and yt at ye nixt election ye box be delivered to ye Mr belonging to ye Traffecquers or Trades yt ye Maltmen may not pretend any priviledge of keeping it more yn ye other masters and so to continue amongst the three incorporations *per vices.*

27 *March* 1684.—Alexr. Laurie and Cath. Garvie paunded a stoned ring and she to produce her testificats agst ye last dyet.

3 *Apprile* 1684. — Compeared Margt. Walker in the Clock Milne.

22 May 1684.—The reason why there was no session these two dayes bygone was ye removeing of my Lord Semple's corps out of ye church.

29 *May* 1684.—Collection for ye burning of Kelso to be collected from house to house ye nixt week.

(*Note.*—The sum collected was £309.)

The comittee to meet at Tho. Murray's house on Monday to survey ye Hospitall papers in order to prepare things against ye visitation of ye Hospitall by ye Bishop of Edinburgh.

17 *July* 1684.—To call for the supplications of those yt intend to seek after the schoolmasters and precentors places both being like to vaik by yr settlement in other places, ye master of ye Grammar School going to be minister at Linton, ye precentor going to Kilconquhar to be minister yr, and ye Session to deliberat whither yei will make ye precentor and doctor's place in one and by yis keep ye doctors salary to ye poor.

1684 *August* 7.—Sederunt Mr Ja. Waugh Moder. Bailie Anderson Bailie Wilson. The qlk day Mr Samuel Ancrum present doctor of the Grammar School was (*nemine contradicente*) elected and chosen precentor and clerk to ye session when ther present clerk Mr Alexr. Hay shall demit and goe from this place to ye church of Kilconqr whether it hath pleased God to give him a call. The session like wise this day taking to yr consideration that Mr Wm. Hay, schoolmaster is now upon his tryalls in order to his setlement in the church of Linton and having a great desyre the school be planted wt a qualified person for the educatione of ther children and seeing like wise yt yr ar severall recommended parties Mr White pnt Schoolmr in Douglasse who is recommended by my lord chancelor (Lord Perth) and Mr William Blair present doctor of the Grammar School of Edinburgh they doe therefor appoint a disput this day fourthnight and appoints ym ye 3rd Satyre of the first book of Horace and that they have a grammatticall analysis upon it and *expon ad aperturam libri.*

(*Note.*—From a later Minute, of date 14th June 1705, it appears that the scholars attending the Grammar School were not more than 30 in number.)

21 *August* 1684. — The masters of ye hospitall are appointed to meet on tuesday nixt at 8 hours to consider of ye affairs of ye same and afterwards as they shall find occasion to meet monthly and quarterly.

To desyre ye representitives of ye incorporations to meet here on Thursday next and to deliberat anent the settlement of a schoolmaster.

21 *August* 1684.—The Gramar School to get ye vacance until ye 24 Septer.

28 *August* 1684.—The session refers to ye Mrs of King James his Hospital to consider whether yt house called Lodge-me-lown should be razed down since it is clamored yt villanie and wickedness is committed yr and yt people are in danger to pass yt way in ye night time be reason of ye rogues yt shelter themselves in it.

(*Note.*—The Hospital continues to draw a yearly feu-duty from this property which is described in the receipts granted as the property "Lodge-me-Lonne now called Bathfield.")

Septer 25, 1684.—This day Mr Wm. Hay late schoolmr demitted his charge and delivered up ye key of ye schooldoor to ye moderator.

This day Mr Wm. Whyte present schoolmaster in Douglass was condescended upon by ye session to be schoolmaster of Leith and to give in bond under his hand for his fidelitie and half of a years tryall for satisfaction of ye session and neighbours of Leith and to have for his sallary £100 scots.

Jo Calder admitted to ye office of ringing of ye bells and keeping the clock and to have 50 marks for his sallary.

2 *Octor.* 1684.—Marion Pontie committed to ye thieves hole and to have nothing but bread and watter for eight dayes space.

9 *Octor.* 1684.—This day Mr Alexr Hay demitted his charge of precentor and reader and delivered up ye key and books to ye modr Mr Chas Kay who accordingly delivered again to Mr Samuel Ancrum and he installed as clerk and precentor in his place.

Octor. 16, 1684.—John Fairservice recommended to ye bailie of St Anthons to be fined.

30 *Octor.* 1684.—Mr Ja Watt was elected and chosen doctor of the Grammar School and to have for his sallarie 100 marks.

Novr. 20, 1684.—The thesaurer appointed to lend Bailie Wilson 1000 marks and to take his bond.

1*st January* 1685.—Mr Alexr Steuart was chosen to be reader precentor and clerk to the session, he being obliged by his entry and this act to write the childrens copies in the high school which he promised to do and was formally admitted.

1685. *Jany* 22.—The qch day ye Moderator and remanent members of ye session appoynted a commettie every six weeks to visit the high schoole.

22 *Jany* 1685.—The session ordained a groat per week to be given to a poor child in Caldtoun who is fatherless and motherless and hath nothing qrby to be sustained or keeped from starvation.

28 *May* 1685.—The thesaurer to speak to a mason to see what it would cost to heighten the dyke of the churchyard nearest to the links half ane ell or yrby.

1 *October* 1685.—Mr Wm Provand, doctor of ye school of Haddington chosen doctor of the grammar school.

5 *Novr* 1685.—The sermon upon week days is to begin at 9 a clock.

(*Note.*—The hour was 8 a.m. in summer and 9 a.m. in winter.)

17 *Decr.* 1685.—Agnes Davidson was incarcerat for her barbarousness in setting ye corps of Mr Mathison to her door (when deceased) and causing children carry ye same into ye links.

7 *Jany* 1686.—This day ye box at the kirk style was opened and yr was taken out yrof £33 : 00 : 08.

Also ye white iron box was opened and yr was taken out yrof £23 : 14 : 06.

14 *Jany* 1686.—The Mrs of the Hospital are to give in yr leets against ye nixt day.

(*Note.*—Like the Session the Masters were appointed yearly and prepared the lists from which their successors were chosen. At this time it appears that a dispute arose between the maltmen of Leith and the masters of King James Hospital as to a mortification of 2000 merks. The Privy Council referred the question to the Bishop of Edinburgh who decided in favour of the maltmen, whose contention was that this fund should be applied to the use of the poor of their own trade in the Hospital.)

4 *Feby* 1686.—This day the parson produced an oath to be sworn by Wm Hislop in regard he continues still obstinate and will noways confess his sin and was appointed to swear ye same publickly on a Lords day befor ye congregation.

18 *Feby.* 1686.—This day Margaret Erskine spouse to Adam Bryson, carter in Abbayhill gave in ane bill of complaint agst Wm. M'Kie carter yr in yt he called her witch and devil and yt the devell was written betwixt her eyes.

1686 *Febery.* 18.—This day it was votted whither ye pnt Mrs of the Hospital should be continued for ye ensuing year and it was votted that they should and they are appoynted to be cited to ye session agst ye nixt session.

1686 *Febry.* 25.—This day the bailies objects agst ye proceder of ye last day in choseing ye Mrs of the Hospitall and oppones ye act of ye constitution of ye session and desyres yt for the better information of ye sessioners yt it should always be read upon the first session day after ye election and that any of ye members yrof might have a coppy yrof att yr pleasure.

25 *Febry.* 1686.—This day Thomas White one of the present Mrs of the Hospital desyred to be freed of any further charge as Mr in respect he complains yt during last years management he was kept ignorant by ye remnant members a part yrof keeping ye box and cash, ye other ye key and he having none of ym was rendered uncapable to serve ye poor in yt station.

1686 *Febry.* 25.—The last Lords day yr was read ane act of his Majesties privie Councill for a voluntar contribution at ye church doore ye nixt Saboth in order to ye helping of ye distressed inhabitants of Newburgh in Fyff.

1686 *March* 4.—The collection for ye fire at Newburgh in Fyff £40 : 00 : 00.

25 *March* 1686.—It is appointed yt the weekly sermon is to begin at eight a clock in ye morning.

1686 *Appryle* 22.—Sedt. Mr Ja. Waughe, Mod. Mr Cha. Kay. . . . . .

The ord collection att ye comunion being Saturday Sunday Monday and Thursday £100 : 08 : 08.

This day it is recomended to ye Thesr to see qt is costomary to be given to ye servants for yr extraordinary paines in time of ye communion and to satisfie ym.

T

13*th May* 1686.—To collect the pettie impost.

This day Rot. Hamiltoune agent for the session gave in ane account of necessary expences laid out by him in pursuing ye Vassals of St. Anthons.

13 *May* 1686.—It is appointed that the whole locks of ye kirkyard shall be altered and yt ye beadell shall give none of ye keys to any person nor suffer any horse or cow to enter yr upon his perill.

20 *May* 1686.—Compeared Janet Muir servitrix to widow Anderson in the Dubbraw.

27 *May* 1686.—This day Corporal Cowie is excused becaus he is necessarily detained, they all being in ye Links at Arms.

26 *August* 1686.—Compeared Andrew Broune at ye Clockmilne Bridge.

(*Note.*—The Clockmilne Bridge carries the ancient road which went from the Canongate by Abbeyhill, Spring Gardens, Restalrig, and the Fishwives' Causeway, over the water course which drained the Nor' Loch. This water course may still be seen as a great sewer flowing through the Craigentinny Meadows. It took its name from the Clokistone Mylne which formed the eastern boundary of the Sanctuary of Holyrood. The Clockmill House, surrounded by old trees, stood in the King's Park until removed in 1859. Its site is now occupied by the Parade Ground. There still exists a Clockmill Lane.)

23 *Septr.* 1686.—Bessie Brymer was imprisoned in ye Cantore until she should pay her penalty.

25 *Novr.* 1686.—Compeared John Kilgour, weaver in ye Citidale.

23 *Decr.* 1686.—Helen Fairley to be cited against ye next day ; she lives at ye Craigwell.

6 *Jany.* 1687.—We Jean Blaire and Janet Hodge being imprisoned in ye Tolbooth of Leith by order of ye session yrof for being fugitives from ye church descipline in Glasgow we hereby enact ourselves yt we shall never be seen in the sd town of Leith untill we give full satisfaction to ye discipline of ye church in Glasgow.

(*Note.*—The parties named subscribed this minute by writing their initials in large scrawling letters.)

13 *Jany.* 1687.—Recommended to speak to ye Commandant of ye town yt he appoynt some soldiers to go on ye Sabbath day to assist ye minister and elders in searching ye towne.

10 *Feby.* 1687.—It was appointed yt none of ye ministers should baptize any children privately unless the Thesaurer be satisfied as to ye poors dues yrin or oyrways ye children to be weak and cannot be keepit without hazard untill ye ordinar time which is after sermon on preaching days.

Last *March* 1687. — Compeared Harry Johnston one of ye comon-doers in ye Greenland fishing.

(*Note.*—Leith sent vessels to the Greenland whale fishing down to 1842. The best known of the whaling firms were Messrs P. & C. Wood, Timber Bush. After the annual return of their vessels a strong pungent smell of boiling blubber pervaded the whole town, and the place became known by the name of "Wood's scent-bottle." Though the firm no longer exists, the family is still represented in Leith. The family had their burial place in South Leith Churchyard. They were the chief contributors to the fund for the erection of St James Episcopal Church, opened in 1863.)

1687 *Appryle* 21.—This day Cath. Scott spouse to Richard Hayfield Smith gave in a bill of complaint agst Marjory Riccart spouse to Ja. Barkley weaver yt she had called her witch and ye sd Marjory being called did not compear but was appoynted to be imprisoned until she find caution to answer but were afterwards both exhorted to agree.

28 *Apryll* 1687.—The visitors report yt they had agreed with Mrs Gibb for the bringing of her side wall of her house ane foot and ½ nearer to ye street yn formerly it was, paying yrfor 3 dollers to ye poor; of ye wch report ye session was well satisfied and accordingly gave warrant and hereby gives warrant to her to go on in her building.

26 *May* 1687.—Compeared Janet Bailie and was appointed to pay her penalty and enter her satisfaction oyrways she is to be put in ye jogs at ye kirk styll upon Sunday.

23 *Junii* 1687. — Given to one Elsp. Douglass recomended by ye primate and ye toune of Edr 14s.

(*Note.*—This minute, with others given above, shows that the Church had come under the sway of Episcopacy. An indulgence had, however, been granted by King James to the moderate Presbyterians who applied to the King's grace for toleration. In April 1687 the King published a "Declaration for Liberty of Conscience," and in July of the same year a proclamation was issued abolishing the penalties and disabilities which had been imposed on non-conformity. In consequence thereof the Presbyterians in Leith opened a meeting house near the Sheriff Brae, and as their register is still preserved, extracts from it will be given after Mr Kay's register has been completed.)

7 *July* 1687.—The session took to yr consideration ye business of Margt M'Mareage being imprisoned of a long time and now being in a starving condition did unanimously condescend yt she should be liberate from prison.

21 *July* 1687.—Compeared James Bailie and produced his daughter Janet for whom he was cautioner and having nothing to pay to ye poor she was appointed to stand in ye jougs at ye kirk styll.

10*th November* 1687.—This day yr was a petition given in be the neighbours of St. Anthonies and yard heads for regulating the souldiers qrters yranent it was appointed yt upon Monday next yt Gibb Anderson Ja. Cockburne and Jo. Stewart should meet in ye Cantore for yt effect, which they did and appoynted ye maltmen being six in number should defray the expenses of the Gentlemen of ye Guard for localitie, straw and corn and byrun money due to George Abercrombie and yt ye oyr neighbours should bear yr burthen of ye foot souldiers so long as the Gentlemen of the Guard continues in the place and qn they go away ye foot are to be casten equallie amongst ym all.

1 *Decr.* 1687.—Compeared John Cutler and produced a certificate of his marriage from Mr Russell declaring yt he married him after 3 proclamations in his meeting house at ye Citidale.

15 *March* 1688. — Compeared Andrew Howieson and because he found no caution he was appointed to ye Cantore until he find caution.

1688 *Junii* 14.—This day it was appoynted yt ye traffickers should put in a leet for ane elder in stead of ye deceast George Coopman;

also ye maltmen to give in ane leit for Alexr. Herdman because he is going out of ye paroch.

26 *July* 1688.—The last day yr was no session in respect ye necessar absence of both ministers.

(*Note.*—The minutes at this time give little indication as to the course of public events. Occasionally an elder or deacon is chosen in room of one who has become a "recusant." But for the most part the records consist of a distressing series of discipline cases in which soldiers are prominent, and numerous undesirable characters, probably attracted to Leith by the regiments stationed in the Citadel.)

1688 *August* 2.—Whereas ye Bailie of St. Anthons is summoned before ye Sheriffs for exerciseing his office of Bailie which his charter bears ye session allows ye thesaurer to deburse what money shall be necessarly expended in defending ye right yrof.

(*Note.*—The Bailie of St. Anthony was one of the dignitaries of the Church, and exercised a baronial jurisdiction over the vassals of the Session in North and South Leith. The Sheriff had disputed his authority, and called some of his decisions in question. Besides this official, who was exclusively their own, the Session had the services of the two Edinburgh Bailies who sat with them, so they possessed an uncommon amount of power and authority.)

2 *August* 1688. — Compeared Margt. Kirkland and was imprisoned in ye Cantore until she find caution.

20 *Septr.* 1688.—The harvest being over Agnes Marshall was cited to compear.

1688 *Octor.* 25.—Sedt. Mr Ja. Waugh, Mr Cha. Kay . . . Ord. collection £07 : 16 : 00. Notwithstanding it was appoynted ye last day yt ye sacrament of ye Lords Supper should have been intimate ye last Lords day yet it was thought fitt to be delayed because of ye reeling of the times untill affaires setle.

22 *Novr.* 1688.—Bailie Allan presented ane Act of ye Town Council requiring ye money which was collected for ye ransoming of Robert Robertson taken prisoner wt ye Turks to be given up to the kirk Thesaurer of Edr.

6 *Decr.* 1688.—Given to Michael Bruce scholar in ye gramear school of Edr 3s. Scots.

3 *Jany.* 1689.—This day the beadell called any person who had anything to object against ye new elected session and none having compeared they were appoynted to be cited to ye seat agst Sabbath.

(*Note.*—In accordance with yearly custom, the session was elected again in the usual way; also the Bailie of St. Anthonies, the Treasurer, and the Hospital Masters. The collection boxes were opened, the seats in the church belonging to the session were declared vacant, and the Committee of Session was appointed, consisting of three elders belonging to each of the four incorporations.)

28 *Febry.* 1689. — St. Anthons Court appoynted on Moonday att nine o'clock in ye morning att ye church and ye Beddall to cite ye whole vassalls yrto agst yt time.

14 *March* 1689.—The Comittie found yt ye Hospital book could not be cleared and yrfor appointed one of every incorporation to revise ye book and report anent ye defeciency, Jo Alexr for ye maltmen, Jo Stuart for the trades and Rot Innes for the traffeckers. The session empowers ye foresaid arbitrators wt ye pnt Mrs to call ye former Mrs before ym.

21 *March* 1689.—Given to a gentlemen of quality recommended by ye presby £3.

18 *Aprile* 1689.—To Wm. Bell schoolmaster being in poverty £4 Scots.

9 *May* 1689.—Given to Mrs Douglas ane old gentlewoman and old residenter here £6.

16 *May* 1689.—The Thesaurer is appoynted to satisfie Capt Broune Boxmaster of ye skippers for bygone rents of the school.

6 *June* 1689.—The beadle is appointed to imprison David Campbell in ye Cantore if he can be found within ye precincts of St. Anthons.

6 *June* 1689.—This day Janet Alexr. relict of Alexr. Forrester Wright gave in a petition desyreing yt she might have £10 yearly to pay her house rent of ye Hospitall and £5 at pnt for to pay her last termes rent and she being a known person and deserves charity the session recomends her to ye pnt Mrs to do in ye same as they think fitt.

18 *Jully* 1689.—This day yr was a precept of Clare Constat subt by ye session in favor

of Thomas Crawford son to umqll Thomas Crawford in Newhaven having paid 10 marks of composition.

29 *Augt.* 1689.—This day Charles Lindsay gave in a supplication desyring to give him a coat; the thesaurer is appoynted to furnish the same.

24 *Octr.* 1689.—The Thesaurer to get from John Menzies who possesses ye lamp Rigs so much as he is owing conform to ye first fiers.

(*Note.*—The lamp ridge was mentioned in a Minute of 2 May 1673, and seems to have been at Seafield.)

31 *Octr.* 1689.—The memorandum given in by ye Mrs of ye Hospital anent John Broun's affair bears yt he is debtor to ye poor of ye Hospitall in ye sum of £1100 or yrby for ye wch ye sd Jo Broun is willing to sell ye house and yard pntly possessed by Wm Lamb and ye grass park belonging yrto lying nixt ye sd hospitall.

14 *Novr.* 1689.—At ye Thesaurers house Mr Cha Kay . . . anent John Broun, maltman, his affair; ye meeting appoynted ye masters to gets out ane Decreet of poynding the ground pntly possessed by Wm Lamb, gardiner, wt ye grass park yrto belonging . . . The masters are to enter to the uplifting of the whole rents untill they be completely paid of what debts ye sd John Broun is due to ye sd Hospitall.

2 *Jary.* 1690.—There was taken out of ye white iron box £60 Scots and out of ye timber box yt stands at ye church styll £24 Scots whereof yr was given to ye clerk £48 and to ye beadle £12 for yr encouragement.

9 *Jary.* 1690.—The Act anent ye groats for each absent every session day from ye session was unanimously ratified.

30 *Jary.* 1690.—The Court of St. Anthons to meet at ye church on Monday nixt at 9 a clock in ye morning and ye whole vassals to be cited yrto.

(*Note.*—This Court met early, and sometimes when business was heavy it "was long in rising.")

6 *Feby* 1690.—Malcolm M'Calla payed 8 Lyg Dollars of peneltie and he is to be cited to satisfy ye nixt day.

(*Note.*—At this time the Session did not give delinquents an option either to pay a fine or to suffer another form of punishment. They combined the two methods, gauging the money penalty according to the financial standing of the individual. This party was absolved after one appearance on the pillory. A Leg Dollar was worth about £2, 16s. scots—*vide* 17 Octr. 1648.)

27 *March* 1690.—Janet Cuthbertson to be imprisoned in ye Cantore untill she find caution to satisfie.

15 *May* 1690.—Collected for ye late burning in Edr in Provost Stuarts Close £17 : 04 : 00.

(*Note.*—This Close was on the south side of the Canongate, just west of where Milton House School now is. Stuart was Provost at the time of the execution of Montrose, for which circumstance he suffered a long imprisonment at the Restoration.)

17 *Jully* 1690.—Mrs Anderson in ye dubraw to be cited for setteng (*i.e.* letting) a house to Mrs Keith.

(*Note.*—The Dubraw was St. Andrew Street. The tenant had not satisfied the Session as to her testimonials, and had to leave the town.)

26 *August* 1690.—Sedt Mr Cha Kay Modr . . . . . and having considered ye citation from ye pbty together with ye Act of Council they find yt ye modr. is not obliged to obey yr order because yt only outed or deprived ministers are yrin mentioned Therefore they appoint . . . . . to go to ye modr. of ye pbty and shew him yt they think yt Mr Charles Kay our minister is not included in ye sd Act of Councell and yrfor they cannot give up yr books.

18 *Septer* 1690.—The session having visited ye house belonging to Rot Broun did allow him to build ane oven 8 foot square having paid 4 Lygg dollars to ye poor for ye liberty.

1 *Octr* 1690.—The modr Mr Cha Kay having intimated ye mind of ye Ministers of ye pbty anent ye delivering up ye session books, this day did require this meetings answer to them (being to compear befor the sd ministers this day) which is yt they are not yet fully in ye mind to give up any of ym untill they consult ane advocate whether they may do it without prejudice to ye neighbourhood.

(*Note.*—The Revolution of 1688 ended the last period of Episcopacy in South Leith Church. Mr Kay,

however, continued in possession for some years, and a serious conflict between parties ensued. In the case of most churches the books of this period are either missing or defective; but we possess the Registers of both parties complete, and are thus able to follow the details of the conflict.)

4 *Decr* 1690.—The moderator Mr Charles Kay (conform to order of ye session) took up ye Registers of this church to ye clerk to ye Comission for visitations and gott his recept of ye same.

(*Note.*—With this minute we begin the last Register of the Rev. Charles Kay. As stated here the church books were delivered up, and in this way they were saved from the destruction which generally overtook church records at this period. We possess the Registers of both Episcopalian and Presbyterian sessions.)

1 *Jany.* 1691.—Compeared Robert Douglas soapboiler and Patrick Glass nottar requireing ye moderator (Mr Charles Kay) to read ane printed paper which they allegt was ane Act of Parliament dischargeing us to be a session and yt we should not proceed in our election although ye sd session was elected ye preceeding Thursday; the Modr. did refuse to read ye sd paper because they came officiously to interrupt him in ye exercise of ye discipline wtout any authoritie for yr warrand.

(*Note.*—The list is not written in the book but on a separate slip of paper and pinned to the book. As it gives the list of the Episcopalian Session it may be of interest to reproduce the names.)

Sands quarter.—Elders James Cockburn Thos Jamieson; Deacons Jas Rendall Wm Straton.

Hill quarter.—Elders Ro. Innes Jo. Smith; Deacons John Lindsay, John Lawson.

Tolbooth quarter.—Elders, Thos Fenwick, John Burton: Deacons, Alex Symon, Joseph Sanders.

Lees quarter.—Elders Ro Muir, Adam Gordon Wm Corsar, George Davidson John Hislop; Deacons yr. Alex Gray, David Gair, Andrew Cleghorn, Thos Muir, Wm Buchan.

Restalrig.—Elders, Alex Finloch, Tho Hood; Deacons, Wm Milne, Ja Miller.

Craigend.—Elders, Jo Robertson, Wm Tailor; Deacons, Walter Coats, Ro. Elder.

(*Note.*—Some of these names are well-known. Straton's family had a famous tavern in the Kirkgate, opposite Laurie Street, a great resort of golfers. It is supposed to be the tavern mentioned in Smollett's "Humphrey Clincker." Lawson is name-father to Lawson's Wynd.)

5 *Febry* 1691.—Ye session condescends yt Margt Millar (having appeared for many Sabbaths in sackcloath) should be absolved providing ye minister find her penitent.

The deliquents are not cited to this day in respect of our minister's trouble with ye Comission of ye kirk.

19 *March* 1691.—It is recomended to ye Masters of ye Hospital that they should settle ye old allowance of 40s Scotts upon ye widows in ye Hospitall in all time coming.

23 *April* 1691.—Jean Shanks in ye Peitnuik rebuiked.

21 *May* 1991.—This day regulations for ye gramar school were approven and appointed to be subscribed be ye clerk and given to ye Mr and Dr of ye school that they may follow ye instruction yrin in ye school's disciplin.

24*th December* 1691.—On Monday last ye committee met and appoynted ye thesr. to depurse any expenses he shall be at in suspending Mr William Wishart who has arrested ye rents of St. Anthons for 100 pound yearly payable be ye session to him for a manse in this place and ye same should be allowed to him for his accompts.

4 *Feby* 1692.—Mr Francis Stuart brother to ye Earle of Murray haveing departed this life upon ye . . . and was buried in our session house upon ye 30 Jary 1692 Wherefore yr was twenty six dollars given to ye poore.

3 *March* 1692.—This day Mr William Provand Doctor of ye Grammar Schoole being alreadie admitted to be Reader and Schoolmr of Kirkliston did dimitt his office here which being now vacant by virtue of yr forsd dismission compeared Mr John Comb sufficiently cloathed wt testimonies of his good conversation litterature and fitnes for ye sd charge the session was pleased to admitt him and hereby does admitt him to be doctor of ye Grammar Schoole of South Leith and to all ye emoluments and casualities which were payed to his predecessors.

3 *March* 1692.—This day the session was surprised by ye appearance of Alexr. Stevenson Skipper in Leith and Alexr. Matheson Wright yr who presented unto ye Moderator a letter subscribed be ye pnt Bailies of Leith directed to ye Modr and session in ye terms following and ye ansr to ye sd letter given by ye Modr and session was that ye sd Alexr. Stevenson and Alexr. Matheson were to acquaint ye Bailies yt ye session were to consider how far they were obleidged be virtue of ye sd letter; upon this day being dismissed ye session thought fitt yt ye forsd letter should be recorded in ye session book the sd letter being dated att Leith ye 25 day of Febry. 1692 years. The tenor qrof followeth:—

"Gentlemen,—Ye have been sometime ago ye session of South Leith and now yr being ane session for ye parish legallie and by the authority of ye peby (*i.e.*, presbytery) duly and orderly chosen conform to ye Act of Parliament qrby ye discipline and government of ye church is appoynted to be in ye hands of and comitted to ye Presbyterian Ministers and such whom they should approve of Theirfor we order you to give up and deliver to ye forsd legally chosen session ye session bookes and church utensills and appertinencies yt are in your hands custody and keeping yt appertained to ye former session of ye sd parish and yt to Alexr. Matheson Wright in Leith who is thesr (*i.e.*, treasurer) chosen be ye sd legall session. This wee require you to do upon sight hereof not doubting your performance of ye same. In expectation qrof we are your loveing friends; Sic subscribitur Ja. Grahame, Bailie; Alexr. Baird, Bailie."

A little yrafter and about ye rising of ye session wee were againe disturbed by ye rude and abrupt appearance of William Smith one of ye Bailies comon officers who in ye Bailies names sumoned ye Modr, Thesr. and whole session to compear before yr court att Leith upon Saturnday and Tuesday nixt, after which ye Modr. asked ye sessions advice which was yt he wt ye thesr should take consultation what was most proper to be done both as to ye letter and summonds and to report to ye session wt yr first convenience.

10 *March*, 1692. This day ye Moderator Mr Cha. Kay reported to ye session yt he had waited upon my Lord Chancellor on Fryday last and informed him fully of ye letter sent from ye Bailies of Leith to ye session anent ye utensills of ye church and of ye citation given by ym to ye whole session to compear before yr court; My Lord Chancellor takeing ye matter to his consideration till Munday yrafter did yn signifie yt he had spoke wt ye Bailies of Leith and yt ye session were not to fear any further trouble from ym so yt they were to proceed in yr discipline as formerly wtout any regard to yr citations and if they should meit wt any trouble yt way yt then ye session should make application and he would take notice of it.

This day ye Moderator declares yt this morning imediatly before he came to church yt ye foresd William Smith officer came to his house and summoned him att ye instance of Mr William Wisheart preacher att ye meeting house and his adherents to compear before ye Bailie court of Leith ye same day and yt he had ordered in like manner ye whole sessioners at yr instance which ye most part of ym declared they were summoned either personallie or at yr dwelling houses. The session thought fitt in regard of The Lord Chancellors advice to make no appearance before ye sd court but to give report to his Lo. (*i.e.*, Lordship) whatever should pass in ye court tending to yr trouble or prejudice. His Lo. was this same day acquainted wt ye summonds given to ye session. His advice was that ye session should take no notice off any summonds which they had or should receive yt way but if ye Bailies should proceed to any sentance or decreet yt then ye session should make application.

31 *March* 1692.—It is recommended yt no ground be broken within ye church for burying before satisfaction be given to ye poore for ye same, and likeways yt ye same method should be used for turfs and ringing of bells to burialls.

5 *May*, 1692.—This day ye Mrs of ye Hospitall acquainted ye session yt ye conveening house for ye 3 incorporations was not in good order and yt they had a mind to plaister and repaire it; the session allowes them to do all things needful yrto as they sall think fitt.

The comittie to meet on Munday att 9 a clock in ye morning att ye Cantore.

30 *Junii* 1692.—This day ye session subt a call to Mr Geo. Gray late minister of Beath in Fyff to supplie ye vacancy in ye church of South Leith and to ye place and benefice possest be ye deceast Mr James Waugh which call being subscribed be ye pluralitie of ye heretors and elders was appoynted to be delyvered to him and presented to the pbty for collation and institution by James Cockburn Bailie of St. Anthonys James Law Geo. Davidson Ja. Balfoure and John Burton Mrs of ye foure incorporations as representing ye session and heretors in ye sd affair.

(*Note.*—James Balfour was, no doubt, the father of the first Laird of Pilrig of that name. He had a soap-work in Riddle's Close.)

7 *July* 1692.—The call given to Mr Geo. Gray was presented to ye meeting of ye members of ye pbty (*i.e.* presbytery) in ye meeting house of South Leith appoynted by ye pbty and a publick protestation was taken agt any thing which should be done by ye sd meeting or ye pbty in prejudice of ye sd call promiseing to produce ye same before ye pbty in time and place convenient.

19 *July* 1692.—This day report was made that they had attended ye presbitrey and pnted the call given to Mr Geo. Gray unto ye pbty upon ye 13 instant desireing ane edict might be appoynted in order to admission which being refused they took instruments and protest.

11*th August* 1692.—Yesterday ye 10th inst., the pbty (presbytery) of Edin. wt ye magistrates of Edinr. and Leith cam to Leith, and requirit ye keyes of ye kirk doors from ye minister and neibours, to which it was anserit yt if they had any warrand fra ye privy counsall for yt effect, or oney remitt from yem to ye pbty authorizing yem to proceed, they were ready to give obedience, but none being producit, they thocht themselves not obliged, ye matter being still depending befoir ye counsall and protestit against any violent intrusion to be made be them, and for cost, skaith, and damage and for remeid of law. Notwithstanding yrof ye magistrates, mmrs of ye pbty, with a confused company of people, entered ye church be breaking open ye lockis of ye doors of ye church, and putting on new ones, and soe caused guarde the church doores, wt halberts, rang ye bells, and possessit Maister Wishart of ye church; against all which irregular proceedings publick protests were taken.

Yis day being the ordinarie for weekly sermon and sessioune, Mr Wisheart came to ye church with a guard of halberds, and preached, and after sermone took possessione of ye sessioun house, Mr Kay and his sessioune being refused entry, ye bailies of Leith declaring Mr Wisheart's sessioun was ye onlie legall sessioun upon which Mr Kay took instruments.

18 *August* 1692.—This day the session was obleidged to be keeped in ye litle house above ye porch of ye outer entry comonly called ye Cantore in regard they were debarred ye sessioun house as aforsd.

25 *August* 1692.—This day ye session haveing gott account of all ye procedure of ye action betwixt ye pbty of Edr. and them concerning ye call given to Mr Geo. Gray to be our minr they doe heartily approve off and concurr and adhere to all ye petitions yt are given in to ye Lords of Privy Counsell and likewayes to ye appeall and protestatioun given in to ye pbty.

25 *August* 1692.—The comittie did not meet in regard many of ye members were necessarly absent.

(*Note.*—It will be seen that the endeavour on the part of Mr Kay's session to appoint Mr Geo. Gray to the place of first minister, precipitated a crisis. In any event a crisis could not long have been delayed. The Rev. James Waugh had been removed at the time of the Revolution, for disobedience to the civil power, and had died in April 1691. The first charge could not continue vacant, and the party of the meeting house had already taken steps to have their minister, Mr Wishart, confirmed to the charge by the presbytery.)

8 *Septer* 1692.—On Munday last ye comittie met and recomended to ye moderator (Mr Cha. Kay) to advise wt ye advocate anent ye bill given in to ye counsell upon ye 12 August last agt ye pbty and Mr Wishearts intrusion and his answer this day is yt upon Tuesday morning nixt yr should be as many doubles of ye sd bill given to as many of ye Lords of Counsell as can be gott in ye toune which advice ye session approves of.

29 *Septer* 1692.—The delinquents cannot be obleidged to compear in regard ye magistrats gives us no concurrence.

13 *Octor* 1692.—The moderator (Mr Cha. Kay) and Bailie of St. Anthons being sent for from the session by ye Bailies of Leith therefore ye session unanimously declares yt if ye bailies should require ye silver work and utinsells of ye church belonging to ym that they be absolutely refuised of ye same.

20 *Octor* 1692.—On Sabbath last Mr Wishart gave ye sacrament of ye Lords Supper in our church.

10 *Nov.* 1692.—Wm. Smith one of ye comon officers came to ye session and cited ye moderator and members yrof to compear before ye Bailies of Leith att ye instance of Rot. Douglas.

17 *Nov.* 1692.—This day Wm. Lamb gardiner was rebuiked for cutting of cabbage on ye Sabbath day and promised to do so no more.

Rot. Douglas soap boiler sent Ja. Will and Wm. Smith two of ye comon officers who cited ye Mod. and session to compeare before ye Bailies of Leith on Thursday nixt att his instance; as also compeared ye sd Rot. Douglas and Jasper Johnstoune etc. a little yrafter and took instruments agt ye meeting, as also ye moderator (Mr Cha. Kay) took instruments agt them.

(*Note.*—It is said that this Robert Douglas was an ancestor of the late Miss Anne Chapman Douglas, who died at Trinity in October 1910, and left a Legacy of £1000 to the Kirk Session—*Vide* Church magazine for November 1910. Robert Douglas appears to have been a wealthy and prominent merchant in Leith, having almost a monopoly in Scotland of the soap industry in his day; and in many church matters he took a leading, sometimes a turbulent, part. Jasper Johnston was a son of the well-known Johnston of Warriston, of Covenant fame. His tomb may still be seen on the north wall of Restalrig Church.)

8*th Dec* 1692.—Vpon Sabbath last, in the fornoone, (as we were informed) publick information was made in our church, be Mr Wisheart, yt ye presbytery had appointit a vistatioun to be holden within ye same vpon Wednesday yrafter; accordinglie ye said presbytery having met and callit severall tymes at ye doore if yir were any to object to Mr Wisheart his ministry in yis place Alexr. Goodal, one of ye members of our sessioun, being sufficiently authorised and commissiouned be ye heretors and sessioun, did appear before ye said pbty wt a nottar publick, and in his own name, and in ye name of all ye subscrivers of Mr Geo. Gray his call, and all vthers who should adhere to him in ye said affair took a publick protest, and declared his and yr adherence to all ye former protestatiouns taken against Mr Wisheart his ministry at our said church; vpon which Mr Livingstone, brewier at the Craigend rose up, and in presence of the presbytery yr sitting, did most violently fall vpon our commissioner, and buffited him, and nipped his cheeks, and had many base expressions to him; as also did Johne Chisholme, shoemaker, and Johne Hunter, smith, both indwellers in Caldtoune; and many of the ministers themselves desyred Hugh Cunninghame there sitting as bailie to command him instantly to prison, which he threatened, unless he would find caution, which he refusing to do, ye said Hugh ordered an officer to cite him to compear before him at the court on Saturday next. . . .

This day, the moderator (Mr Charles Kay) and sessioun, having convened to keep sessioun in ye cantore above ye porch of ye outer entry of ye church, now the ordinarie place for keeping the same, being debarred formerly ye sessioun house be ye violence of Mr Wisheart and his adherents, and having tried the key severall times in ye lock yrof, they found they could not get access, because yesterday Rot. Douglass, soapboiler, did cause breck open ye door yrof and took away ye locke (as can be made appear be severall witnesses) and put a new lock vpon ye same; whereupon yr was publick instrument taken in ye hand of Walter Stewart, nottar publick, that our sessione was violentlie debarred ye place yt they used for the time to sitt; and upon ye instruments they caused the doors to be broken open, and put on ane other lock on the same.

15*th Decr.* — Alexr. Goodall, our commissioner to ye visitatioune was imprisoned in the tolbuith of Leith vpon Thursday, by Hugh Cunninghame, baillie, for taking a legal protest and continues in prison till this time, until a bill of suspension pass, which is expected this day.

15 *Decr.* 1692.—The beddall to acquaint every eldership to meet amongst ymselves betwixt and Munday and give in yr leits yt day in order to a new election for ye ensuing year which accordingly was done and they are to be elected on Thursday nixt.

22*nd Decr.* 1692.—Alexr. Goodall our comissioner was liberate from prison on Thursday last by a suspension.

22 *Decr.* 1692.—This day Mr Jo. Law one of ye minrs. of Edr. came to ye session and required Patrick Glass, Nottar, whom he brought alongst wt him to read a paper which he said was a commission from the pbty of Edr. impowering him and Mr Ja. Lundie minr. of North Leith (who came not alongst with him) to discharge our session to proceed to a new election and yt ye pbty declared our session to be no session nor could chuse none but yt that was ye only session qrof Mr Wishart was Moderator. It was answered by ye session that they sustained themselves to be ye only legall session of South Leith and ye matter being depending before the Lords of privy Counsell untill it should be determined to ye contrary they will proceed to ye election conforme to the ordinary custome.

(*Note.*—The Rev. James Lundie died in 1696, and was buried in North Leith Churchyard, Coburg Street, where a magnificent tombstone, recently restored, stands over his grave.)

29 *Decr.* 1692.—On Sabbath last ye new elected sessioun was read out in ye church and any person yt had ought to object agt any of them was desired to compear this day and non haveing compeared the beddall is to cite them to ye session table agt Sabbath next in order to yr admission.

5 *Janry.* 1693.—On Sabbath last ye new elected session were admitted whose names followeth:—John Lord Balmerino, Jo. Mr of Balmerino, Alexr. Nisbet of Craigentinney, Mr Jo. Purves of Abbayhill, Mr Ja. Elphinston, Bailie of ye Barronie . . . . . .

(*Note.*—Here follow the elders and deacons for the Sands quarter, Hill quarter, Tolbuith quarter, Lees quarter, and for Restalrig Abbay hill, Quarrell Holes and Craigend. Purves of Abbayhill was one of the persecutors of the Covenanters, and conducted the prosecutions against them in the absence of the Bloody Mackenzie. Abbeyhill House, the mansion of the Purves's, was removed to make way for Abbeyhill Station. Another name in the list which may be referred to is that of A. Milne, son of the King's Master Mason.)

12 *Janr.* 1693.—This day Mr Wm. White, pnt schoolmaster did dimitt his charge which was taken off his hand by ye session but withall he was desired to wait upon ye schoole a little untill yr should be a Mr provided which he promised and it is recommended to the Moderator (Mr Cha. Kay) to enquire for a qualified person for ye place wt his conveniency.

26 *Janry.* 1693.—On Munday last ye Comittie ordered Wm. Muir, smith in Musleburgh, who is obleiged to keep ye clock, to tak more pains in ye keeping of her because she is for ye most pt out of order, which he promised.

2 *Feby.* 1693.—Compeared Mr John Colme doctor of ye Grammer Schoole and did dimitt his charge as doctor in ye hands of the session wt all ye emoluments and casualties belonging thereto to be disposed of be them att yr pleasure.

(*Note.*—The charge of the schools had now been assumed by Mr Wishart's session.)

St. Anthons Court to be keeped on Munday nixt in the church.

14 *Feby.* 1693.—The Comittie haveing met on Saturday last conforme to ye order of ye session and haveing comuned wt Mr Alexr. Laing schoolmr in Edr. and seen his certificatts they were satisfied and gave advice yt in respect of the vacancy of ye schoole both as to Mr and doctor a session should be called of purpose to meet this day in order to his admission.

The session being met gave unanimous consent to his admission and doe hereby admitt him to ye office of Grammar Schoolmr here and entitulls him to all ye emoluments and casualties belonging to ye sd office; in signe and testimony qrof and of the pnt sederunt's hearty consent they did severally take him by ye hand and delivered him the key of ye schoole doore upon all which he took instruments upon ye place.

23 *Feby.* 1693.—This day yr was no session in regard of ye Moderator's absence.

Ord. collection £08 : 17 : 00.

(*Note.*—This is the closing entry in Mr Kay's minute-book, of which about one-half is blank. Mr Kay was suspended about this time for non jurancy. In this manner the conflict ended, and Mr Wishart became possessed of undivided authority. From other records we learn of Mr Kay's death in November 1719, and of his burial in South Leith churchyard. "Mr Charles Kay late minister of the gospel in So. Leith died in the Yardheads in the seventieth year of his age and was buried the twentieth day," thus surviving his ejectment from the Church for twenty-six years. It is not known whether he and his adherents ever formed an independent church, though there is good reason to suppose that this was the case. Mr Kay conducted services in his own house in Yardheads, and was succeeded there three years before his death by the Rev. Arthur Millar, who was followed in 1735 by the Rev. Robt. Law. The congregation afterwards became St. James' Church, and their registers begin with Mr Law's ministry. As for the new Schoolmaster he met with no favour at the hands of Mr Wishart's session, and after a little time he returned the key of the schoolhouse door.

Having completed the Episcopalian Registers it will be convenient to take up the Presbyterian Registers which begin in July 1687. Under that date it was noted that a "Liberty" was granted by King James, in accordance with which a number of persons resident in South Leith associated themselves together into a congregation, and set up a Presbyterian Meeting House near to the Sheriff Brae. The place where it was ultimately fixed is still known as the Meeting House Green, and lies between Cables Wynd and King Street. The Meeting House, which locally is called "the Kirk," is presently used as a barrel store by Messrs Davidson, Pirrie & Coy., and its east gable abuts on Cables Wynd.)

EXTRACTS from the Register of the Meeting House.

A Register of things done in the meetings of the representatives and eldership of the presbyterians of the toun and parroch of South Leith since July 7th 1687 years after the Libertie was proclaimed.

Jullie 7 1687.—The quilk day a meeting houss was takein from Thomas White Brewar in South Leith for 16 lib Scotts as it come in the half year who had it hired for himself from a Dolphus Durham tutor to Mr Bruces childrine; the house is in ye Shirref Brae.

(*Note.*—This minute takes us back to the year when King James VII. issued his Indulgences to the several creeds of the Christian religion, including Roman Catholicism. Field conventicles were still to be suppressed, but Presbyterian ministers without distinction were to be allowed to preach in meeting houses subject to certain conditions. The meeting house mentioned in this minute was shortly to be exchanged for another. The eagerness with which the liberty was received indicates that the religious life of the parish was deeply stirred. This Register is a stout quarto volume, written by a number of individuals, the first part containing minutes, the second part cash entries.)

Jullie 9 1687.—The quilk day James Douglass John Dick in South Leith acquainted Cornelius Neilson Baillie of Leith that preaching was to be in the publick meeting house of the presbyterians upon ye morrow being the Sabbath day being the 10 of Jullie instant and yt Mr William Wishart minister of ye gospell and indweller in South Leith was to preach from day to day untill a minister was called and settled according as it was required in yr proclamation for Libertie.

(*Note.*—This Mr Wishart was father of the Mr Wishart who became minister at the meeting house.)

Jullie 14 1687.—After prayer by Mr William Wishart minister. *Sederunt.* George Fullerton of Dreghorn, Thomas Stirk in Leith Millnes, Thomas Whyte breuar in South Leith, Alexr. Matthison, carpenter yr, James Mickle breuar yr, Thomas Crawfoord breuar yr, Patrick Glass merchant yr, Andro Watson tobaco seller

yr, Evan McGrigor overseeer of ye card work yr, John Telleford yr, John Dick merchant yr, Wm. Williamson tyler yr and Thomas Dickson brazier yr.

The said Laird of Dreghorn, Thomas Stirk . . . were chosen to be representatives for this Society of Presbyterians untill ane eldership be orderlie elected and a minister called and setled.

The forsd Mr Wm. Wishart Minr. and inhabitant in Leith was alwayes to proceed and moderat untill the foresaid tyme for setling a minister and eldership the work of the representatives being to do and order all affaires relating our outward accomodation, as building our seats collecting of money at ye meeting house door, distributeing of ye same for ye poore and pious uses and such like things.

(*Note.*—The Laird of Dreghorn belonged to a covenanting family. Dreghorn is near Irvine in Ayrshire. Adam Fullerton, a member of this family, was a chief supporter of Knox and the Reformers. His house still stands in the Fountain Close, High Street, and the mottoes on the lintels, "Truth Conquers" and "Only by Christ," are supposed to refer to the triumph of the Reformers' cause.)

Jullie 14. 1687.—It was resolved and agreed their should be lecturing and preaching twice every Lords day beginning at nine a clock in ye morning and at two a clock in ye afternoon and a week dayes sermone every Thursday and to begin at nine a clock in ye morning and yt the representatives should meet every Thursday ordinarlie immediatlie after sermon.

Nicoll Smith in South Leith was chosen to be Bedell for qch he should have in sallarie a Rix Dollar every quarter of a year beside ye casualities yt will fall to him by baptesmes mariages and keeping of ye seats.

Jully 21, 1687.—The said day James Meikle was chosen Boxmaster to take in qt collections has been since Jully 10 wt qch he also received 52 lib 12s. six pennies Scotts of contributions befor ye sd tyme.

(*Note.*—Meikle's Close, which ran from Yardheads to Giles Street—the west part of which still remains—was named after this James Meikle, who had a brewery there.)

Alexr. Matthison carpenter was desyred to build a seat some what higher than ye rest of ye seats for ye minister to preach in.

August 4 1687.—The Quilk day it was agreed yt ye boxmaster should buy ane half hour sand glass, a paper book to be a Register and a puther (*i.e.* pewter) basin for receiving the collections and holding ye watter for baptisms and some linnen to be two cloaths, the one to be sprade beneath the bason at collecting and the oyr to serve at Baptismes.

(*Note.*—The sandglass was intended to regulate the length of the sermons. It cost 7s.)

Sep. 1 1687.—The qlk day Thomas Whyte (as he was desired) agreed wt a Dolphus Durham for ye meeting houss from this day forth to pay 50 pounds scotts yearlie and proportionallie so long as we keep it.

Sep. 1, 1687.—Thomas Russell from Holland, pretended preacher and minister, having set up a meeting house pulpit etc. in North Leith qr he preaches Sabbath days and Thursdays wtout ye consent of Mr John Knox presbyterian minister yr, and notwithstanding he was discharged by a meeting of presbyterian ministers at Edr after he had given it in write under his hand to be subject to every meeting of presbyterian minrs qr he shall come and notwithstanding also of a libel of artickles given in against him by those in South Leith, he having seduced many to follow and hear him and taking upon him to examine them and some of his followers going through not only North Leith but also South Leith seeking hands and getting ym to subscribe a paper for a call to him; therefore the meeting appoints . . . to represent these things to ye meeting of minrs at Edr and to seek redress qrof and to wait on the said meeting until some close be put hereunto.

September 29 1687.—This day ye meeting agreed wt Mr Wm. Reid (having good Testificats) to be clarke and precentor to ye meeting houss in South Leith for 50 merks of sallarie as it comes to in ye year or proportionallie during ye present libertie; he hes likeways the dues for baptisms and marriages; he was to take his own venture for a schoole in Leith anent wch we could engage nothing.

All the tyme bygone since ye first of Septr. was taken up and spent in debateing wt those in Restalrig and Caltoun who was makeing their recourse to have a minister for themselves only.

Lykwayes dureing the forsaid tyme (excepting on preaching dayes) Alexr. Matthison Carpenter was plenishing the meiting house wt seatts and desks.

October 6, 1687.—It was aggried that intimation should be made that all within the toun and parish of South Leith who intended to take seatts in the meeting house would be pleased to come tomorrow at two afternoon because att that tyme the desks and seattes are to be divyded.

The divisione of the seatts in the meiting house as they were divyded according to ye drawing of figures.

1. Of the north east qrter from the pulpitt in order . . . (then follow eleven lines with seats and names).
2. Of the south east syde (nine lines).
3. Of the south west quarter (eleven lines).
4. Of the north west quarter from the pulpitt.

   The first seatt is for those that have children to baptize and for those that are to be marryed being lyke a pew qrin is a void for going to the pulpit.

   The second is a pew for the Laird of Dreghorn (then follow other five lines.)
5. In the midst of the house on the south syd is First the pulpitt.

   The second before the pulpitt is for the precentor.

   The third before the precentors seatt is the seatt for the minister.

(*Note.*—The following names are given in the original division of the sittings, viz., Lady Caldwell, Lady Boighall, Gilbert Anderson, Alexander Mathison, Henry Hay, James Smart, Evan M'Gregor, Thomas Whytt, Jamson Symson, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Heggs, Andrew Hislop, George Wilkie, Andrew Lawrie, John Telfer, James Meikle, Thomas Crawford, Mrs Gibb, Thomas Stirk, Mrs Petit, Wm. Cathcart, Thomas Dickson, John Davidson, Gilbert Dick, George Handyside, the Laird of Dreghorn, Robert Douglas, George Coupman, Mrs Baird, Patrick Glass, Andrew Watson, Wm. M'Curg. It is not known who Lady Caldwell was. Lady Boghall was probably the widow of Lawson of Highriggs and Boghall, the latter near Boroughmuir. Lady Lawson's Street is named after this family.)

November 17, 1687.—It is appoynted that the nixt Sabbath being the twentie day of this instant moneth of November intimation be made that all Masters of families of the presbyterian perswasione who will joyne with us for the electing of a minister of the presbyterian judgment Do convein the nixt thursday being the 24th immediately after sermone in this meiting house and that both in the toun and parish of South Leith.

November 24, 1687.—Master John Knox minister of North Leith haveing preached and after sermone haveing moderated according to the former appoyntment by the meeting of the ministers of Edr. there did conveen manie masters of families who did elect and subscryve a call to Mr William Wisheart younger to be their minister. The call and the names of the subscryvers follows in the nixt page. All who conveened did elect and subscryve unanimously.

THE CALL.

We undersubscryvers of the presbyterian perswasione in the paroch of South Leith being destitute of ane sound and faithfull minister of our said perswasione and haveing the certaine knowledge and presently being duely informed of you Mr William Wishart younger preacher of the gospell as a persone not only inteirly one in principles with us but also well furnished with piety integrity and literature prudence a preaching gift and other ministeriall qualification Thairfor wee above designed doe earnestly invite beseech and call you the said Mr William Wishart younger in the bowells of our Lord Jesus Christ to come and take the oversight of our soulls by labouring in the work of the ministry amongst us and for your encouragement wee will heartily accept of you for our minister and do promise all cheerful and hearty obedience in the Lord unto your ministry as the ambassador of our Lord Jesus Christ to concur with you in our capacitie and strengthen your hands in the administratione of all gospell ordinances of worship and discipline as the

Lord shall enable us and dureing your abode with us shall according to our power provyd for your maintainance beseeching and obtesting you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to compassionate the poor afflicted and disconsolate condition of this parish under which we have grieviously languished these many years bygone and to accept the foresaid call to come to be our lawfull pastor as a thing tending to the glory of god the good of his kirk and the welfare of our poor soulls—Written att one order of South Leith this 24 November 1687 —represented and subscryved by us in our names and in name of all others of the sd paroch of South Leith who do or shall adhere unto us me John Knox minister of the gospell att North Leith appoynted by the comittie of the provinciall meiting of Lothian and Tweedall to be present and moderate att this our election that he may see it done according to the laudable constitutions and practice of the presbyterian kirk of Scotland in the election of ministers.

(*Note.*—The call is subscribed by 43 persons, and it is added that many more adhered. The minute is docqueted and subscribed by John Knox.)

December first 1687.—The qhilk day the Laird of Dreghorn Thomas Whyte . . . being formerly appoynted to sett a pryce upon the seatts or desks of the meiting house gave in their report thus—There was 44 seatts qrof four fourmes was counted one seatt and aggried that every single seatt should pay £5 : 10/– Scotts and every pew (being reckoned two seatts or desks) should pay £11 scotts by those who took them.

December 1, 1687.—Robert Douglas and James Meikle gave in their report that they presented the call for Mr Wm. Wishart younger to the meeting of the presbyterian ministers at Edr. together with his testimonials for passing of his tryals formerly as a probationer both which were accepted and approven by them and accordingly they gave out a common head to be declaimed when he is ready.

December 17, 1687.—The whilk day Mr Wm Reid our clerk reported that he delyvered a letter under his hand to George Sinclair bailly of South Leith and directed to him whairin he acquainted him that Mr Wm. Wishart younger residenter in the said toun of South Leith preached constantly in the meiting house of the presbyterians there (the same being intimat to Bailly Neilsone before and after the liberty was granted) being now called and to be admitted to be our minister and Mr William Wishart elder his father residenter also here being ane old and weak man preaches sometymes with his said son.

January 12, 1688.—The whilk day according to the appoyntment of the ministers att Edr. (none compeiring befor them upon the fyfth of January as was requyred to object any thing against it) Mr Hugh Kennedy minister at Edr. preached and with many other presbyterian ministers Did ordain by imposition of hands and admitt Mr William Wishart younger publickly in our meiting house to be our minister.

(*Note.*—In the long list of eminent ministers who have served in South Leith, Mr David Lindsay is by common consent assigned the first place, and this Mr Wishart is, we believe, entitled to the second place. His father had been minister of Kinniel. He himself took his degree in Edinburgh University in 1680. In 1684 he was imprisoned on a charge of denying the King's authority, and after a long confinement he was set free by the Privy Council on giving caution to compear when called. Although now he became minister only to a gathered congregation, his appointment was later on confirmed by the Parish and the Presbytery. He was translated to the Tron Church in 1707, and subsequently became Principal of the College of Edinburgh. He was also Moderator of the General Assembly on five occasions. His portrait hangs in the Assembly Hall.)

January 19, 1688.—The whilk day it is agreed by the meiting of representatives here that these who give up their names to have their purpose of marriage with each other publictly intimatt with us pay to our precentor and clerk 12s. scots and to the beddell 6s. scots and als much upon their marriage day if they be maryed here.

January 26, 1688.—The whilk day the meiting of the representatives . . . appoynted . . . to speak to Robert Cheislie and to endeavour to prevaile with him to let us have the loft immediatlie above the weigh house to be a meiting house for the presbyterians in this

paroch whairin to preach and hear ye gospell because the meiting house wee have att present is too little for containing the hearers and lykwayes because the owners thairof will have us to remove.

(*Note.*—The report follows in these words—"This prevailed not." Robert Cheislie was the bailie for Leith.)

23 *Feby.* 1688.—Master Alexr Strang preached in the meeting house and had for his fees two rex dollars which is payed to him.

(*Note.*—When a stranger minister was due to preach, written intimation had to be given to the baillies.)

Apl. 5, 1688.—The members of the meeting were taken up with spearing out a larger meeting house becaus this house wherein now the ordinances are administered is too little for this congregation.

June 7, 1688.—This day the minister with the honest men of the meitting agried that the week dayes preaching be on the fryday hereafter that so who pleases may repair to hear sermon elsewhere upon the thursdayes.

Julij 6, 1688.—This day the meitting appointed the boxmaster to give to Nicoll Smith our beddall £10 scots to make up the loss he had by having his house broken and his goods stollen out of the same.

This day the meitting agried with Alexr. Mathieson to give to him yearly the soume of 250 merks scots for a house of his to be a meitting house in all time coming and the same to be payed at the beginning of every year and the first year to begin at Whytsunday last bypast.

(*Note.*—This was the house generally known as the Meeting House and which has given its name to Meeting House Green. It stood between Cables Wynd and King Street, and part of the walls still remain at Messrs Pirrie's yard. *Vide* Minute of 23 February 1693 *supra*. This Mr Mathieson figures very prominently in these minutes. He died on 23 June 1710 and was buried in the churchyard. His tombstone, bearing his initials with those of his wife, Euphemia Anderson, was recently unearthed and has been placed for preservation in the minister's tomb.)

Julij 13, 1688.—This day it was agried by the minister and meitting that intimation shall be made that whosoever desyres seats in the new meitting house who were not provyded with seats before shall give in their names to Alexander Mathieson carpenter or to Mr Wm. Reid precentor and clerk.

13 *July* 1688.—Thomas Whyte, the laird of Dreghorn, Robert Douglas are appointed to go to Caltoun and Restalrig to see who of them hes a mind to join with us and take seats in our new meitting house.

July 20 1688.—The meitting agried unanimously that the eight persones following, to witt . . . should determine the place where every family of this congregation should have their seatt and for this end to meitt upon Monday nixt at eight houres in the morning in the meitting house.

August 3, 1688.—The meitting finding that some who had yr seatts determined for them were dissatisfied yrwith they appoint . . . to doe what they can to satisfie them in ane amicable way.

This day Mr Robert Law preacher of the gospel did preach in our meitting house Baillie Sinclare being acquainted yrwith in writt subscryved by Gilbert Anderson and Alexander Mathieson which was given in to the clerk of South Leith by Mr Wm. Reid precentor.

Septmr. 7th 1688.—The representatives did voluntarily agree that they should for the first and third fridayes of the month each one pay for yr absence 4s. scots and if they were late in coming, viz, after prayer, should pay 2s. scots unless sickness or being out of the bounds of the presbyterie doe hinder them.

It was agreed that Wm. Blair a poor sick blind man in South Leith should have at every qrters end 48s. scots.

Septmr 21*st* 1688.—The qlk day yr was a numerous meeting of the representatives and masters of families who elected these prsones following to be elders in this congregatione, viz—the Laird of Dreghorn (then come eleven names) who standing up were admitted and ordained in ye presents of the sd meeting by Mr William Wishart ynr Likewise they did nominat and elect for deacons these following viz—(twelve names) who standing up were admitted by the minister Mr William Wishart younger and yt in presence of the said meeting.

28 *Sepr* 1688.—It was appointed that on Sabbath come 8 days the sacrament of the Lord's Supper should be administrat in our meeting house of south Leith, and yt yr should be a fast day on the thursday before. All things belonging yrto was distribut among the elders and deacons.

(*Note.*—The expenses attending this communion are detailed in the cash book—*vide sub.*)

19 *Octr* 1688.—This day did take inspection of Alexr Mathison, carpenter, his compts for transporting the seats out of the first meeting house unto the new meeting house together wt ye building a number of new seats, putting the pulpit in better form and building of seats in ye three lofts, they find yr will be owing to him the sum of £124, 8s. Scotts money.

Octor 26*th* 1688.—James Stephen having served us in the intervall of tyme dureing the last qrter and having shewn to us that he cannot engage wt us for the tyme to come in regarde that the Provost of Edr his master will not let goe from his service all are desyred to inquyre and seek for anoyr to be precentor and clerk.

Januar 11 1689. — Appoints Alexander Mathison and Ewan M'Gregor to collect money for the Comissioners to the Prince of Orange which was done and ten pound sterling was sent up to Master David Williamson Collector thereof.

March 15, 1689. — Appoints those who collect on the sabath and frydayes to meet in the ministers house with the minister and the box master every friday at 4 a clock in the afternoon to distribut money to such poor folk as they shall find to be objects of charitie aither within or without the parioch according as they shall find they have testimonials.

May, 9, 1689.—This day was a day of thanks giving (it being intimat the last Lords day) for our deliverance from poprie and arbitrarie government and to pray for King William the glorious instrument of our deliverance according to the appointment of the Convention of the Estate of this Kingdom.

June 7, 1689. — The fridayes preaching changed to Thursday at Eight hours in the morning.

Janr. 23 1690.—Appoints James Meikle and Patrick Glass to speak to the Magistrats to punish cursers swearers drunkards especially these upon the Sabbath day.

10 *Aprile* 1690. — Appoints the next Sabbaths collection for the relief of prisoners that were sent to the Barbadoes and this according to the appointment of the Synod.

(*Note.*—The Treasurer advanced 600 merks for this object.)

Aprile 27, 1690.—The precenter after the blessing read ane order from the Sheriff appointing the heritors to convein at Edr upon Thursday next for ordering corn and straw for their majesties guard of horse.

June 22, 1690.—This day before noone before the blessing our minister did intimat a following fast to be kept in our meeting houss on Tuesday next according to ane Act of Parliament and another act of the generall meeting of the presbyterian ministers and elders met at Edr holding foorth the sins and causes thereof and to pray for the preservation of King William his person who is now gone for Ireland and that God would give good success to his Majesty and his army yr.

This day having receaved ane act of the privie councill and toun council of Edr. appointing a collection at the door of the Kirks and meeting houses for a voluntar contribution for the harbour of the burgh of Crail to be collected for the same upon 29 June instant and yrfore after to be delivered to George Dishingtoune Tounne Clerk of Crail was read after the blessing.

4 *Septer* 1690.—The session agrees yt such as are maried any other tyme except immediately after sermon shall according to custome in this parich give into ye box master a dollar to ye poor besides what is given ordinarly.

The minister acquainted the session that a necessary occasion called him to London to meet with his brother there and that he designed to goe within 8 dayes or a fortnight which ye session allowed of desyring he might

return so soon as possible and he left the session a list of ministers who had promised to supply them in his absence.

(*Note.*—The minister was absent from 21st September to 8th December 1690.)

14 *Septer* 1690.—This day intimation was made by our minister immediately after sermon in ye forenoon of a thanksgiving day to be celebrated the nixt Lords day for King William his safe return from Ireland and his victory yr according to ane act of ye generall meeting of the ministers and elders and another act of privie counsell.

(*Note.*—The victory referred to is the battle at Boyne Water.)

20 *Novembre* 1690. — Thomas Stirk acquainted ye session yt yr was a petition given in by ye people of Restalrig to ye presbitry of Edr. craveing yr concurrence and recommendation to ye comission for plantation of Kirks for ye disjunction of ye landwart pairt of this parich and yr erection of a parich by themselves and he desyred ye session would appoint some of yr number to go up to ye sd presbitry agst ye nixt presbitry day and crave from them a sight of ye said petition to ye effect they might object yragst. The session appoints . . . to goe to the presbitry for ye effect above written.

(*Note.*—This Mr Stark was referred to in the minute of 13 April 1676. He was miller at Leith Mills which stood at the end of Bowling Green Street. These were perhaps the mills which Robert the Bruce had granted to the Edinburgh burgesses in 1329, thereby commencing all the troubles of Leith. Junction Mills on the other side of the river are comparatively recent. The Mill Lane led from North Leith to Mr Stark's Mills.)

8 *Decr* 1690.—The minister acquainted the session that he had got some acquaintance with one Andrew Young teacher at Newcastle and a man well reported of as truly pious and very weel qualified for teaching Latin; the session considering that ye place was at a great loss for want of a good schoolmaster desyred the minister to write to him to come here, hoping yr might be an open door made for him to be head schoolmaster.

17 *January* 1691.—Reported that those in ye landwart part of the paroch were willing to lay aside all former difficulties and debates and to join wt these of this congregation and accordingly Jasper Johnston portioner of Restalrig being present a motion was made that he might be received as ane elder or assistant in this congregation, but he craved it might be delayed till yr were ane eldership constitut for ye whole paroch.

5 *Febery* 1691.—The session considering that the pretended session keeped up by Mr Cay is not conform to ye present establishment and that the session wee have in the meeting hous was constitut only for ye congregation here gathered out of the parishes of South and North Leith and consequently yt yr is a totall vaccancie of a session to take inspection of ye whole paroch Therefor they appoynt Jasper Johnstoun and Robert Douglas to meet with the presbitry about setling a session for ye whole parich.

19 *Feby* 1691.—Appoints Jasper Johnston and Robert Douglas to meet with the baillies to see if they will heartily concur with a legal session in South Leith.

(*Note.*—These minutes shew the method adopted by Mr Wishart to gain possession of the church. Through the recent change of Government, he was now in a position to invoke the aid of church courts, and civil executive to supersede Mr Kay's session with his own.)

12 *March* 1691.—Mr William Wishart minister of the gospel in this place and Janet Murray in ye parich of Prestonpans (who produced a certificate from Mr John Moncrief, minister yr) gave up yr names to have yr purpose of mariage publicklie intimated and to begin ye next Lords day.

12 *May* 1691.—The minister was appointed to speak ye baillie for ane officer to attend ye meeting house on ye days of publick meeting for preventing of tumults.

Appoints Jasper Johnston and Robert Douglas to continue at the presbytery for settling of our session in this place.

11 *June* 1691.—The minister desired that some might be appointed to go through the parish to take up the names of all here who

would willingly submit to ye ordinances dispensed in ye meeting hous and particularly yt of catechising; accordingly these were appointed. . . .

18 *June* 1691.—The minister acquainted the session that Mr Andrew Young was come from Newcastle, they desired the minister to write to him to Anstruther, qr he was at present, that he might come and take a triall of a privat school until ye schoolmasters place in Leith were vacant and they would do yr utmost to protect him in so doing, and give him what encouradgment they could.

9 *July* 1691.—Appoints Alexr Matheson Boxmaster to pay himself for ye rent of ye meeting hous for a whole year 250 merks.

Those who were appointed to wait at ye presbytery for ye constituting a session in this place gave in yr report yt ye presbytery had tabled it before ye commission of Assembly for advyce.

14 *July* 1691.—The session appoint whatever was gotten from ye prelaticall in North and South Leith should be given back to them again to help them to make up yr sums for the relieving ye prisoners at ye Isle of Mull.

16 *July* 1691.—The session appoynts these who is befor named, viz—Jasper Johnstone, Robert Douglas . . . to waitt on at ye presbitry upon ye 23 of this instant for the constituting of a session in this parish; and the minister having drawen a draught of a petition the same was read and approven by the session and appoynted to be given in to ye presbitry—ye petition here followes.

> To the Right Reverend the Moderator and remanent members of ye presbitry of Edr.
>
> The humble petition of the inhabitants of ye presbiterian perswasion in ye toun and parich of South Leith and Barrony of Restalrig.
>
> SHEWETH:
>
> That whereas by the late act of parlament setling presbiterian church government the said government is established in ye hands of and allowed to be exercised by these presbyterian ministers who were outed since ye first of January 1661 for nonconformity to prelacie or not complying with the courses of ye time and such ministers and elders only as they have admitted or received. There is yrfor now a totall vacancie of a session that can have ye inspection of ye whole parich of South Leith and exercise discipline in ye same especially considering that your wisdomes disowned ye present incumbent his session at yr late appearance by some of yr number commissionat to this reverend presbitry and that severall of your petitioners did publickly protest against yr late election as illegall and your petitioners not being able without grief to reflect upon the sad consequences of such a long vacancie of session have judged themselves bound in duety out of yr tender respect to the glory of God and ye good of souls and for yr own exoneratione to address themselves to your wisdomes humbly craving there may be such a session constitut in the said parich of South Leith as may beyond all exception have the inspection and oversight of all within ye said parich and for ye better information of ye reverend brethren of this presbitry they offer these reasons following for such a constitution which reasons they humbly submit to your censure and judgement.
>
> 1st. There are a great many scandalls and much wickedness abounding in this parish which not only grieves the hearts of your petitioners and of every serious person in ye said parich but brings a sad stain upon ye present church government . . . and yr can be noe effectual course fallen upon for curbing and suppressing such abounding wickedness but by such a well ordered and constitut session as may be in case to exercise discipline in ye whole parich.
>
> 2nd. There being now a vacancy in ye said parich both by the deprivation and death of Mr Waugh late incumbent yr and the present incumbent Mr Kay being much busied in dealing with the heritors and oyrs in ye said parich that they may have a call drawn up to some minister to be his colleague, it is thought necessary for preventing trouble that there may be an eldership constitut which with ye heritors

and magistrats may call a minister to supply the said vacancy who by vertue of ye said call may have an undoubted and unquestionable right to ye vacant stipend which is now so much contraverted.

3rd. There are severall priviledges granted by King James ye 6th to ye said session of South leith as severall acres of land and severall superiorities of lands for the use of ye poor and oyr pious uses together with ye priviledge of chusing a Baillie commonly called the Baillie of St. Anthons and ye masters of ye Hospitall, and all these priviledges must needs fall to ye ground or be abused through mismanagement for want of a session legally constitut.

4th. The said toun and parish of south leith is at ane insufferable and deplorable loss for want of a well qualified schooll master for education of youth that place being verie considerable in ye said parich for ye present schoolmaster who was intruded upon ye place by ye moyen of ye late chancelor ye Earle of Perth is so extremely scandelous insufficient and negligent that severalls of your petitioners and many others within ye said parich are forced to send yr children to school els where to yr great charge and such as are not able to undergoe the charge are necessitat to keep their children at home or to make anything of them rather yn schollars for ye present incumbent cannot be deprived nor his place supplied bot by a session legally constitut as said is who have the power wholly lodged in them of calling and chusing a schoolmaster to whom they give ane sallery out of ye rents above mentioned, your petitioners doe with all humilitie and reverence declair that if these circumstances be not regarded (which God forbid) then our youth is lost to ye great greif of our souls and (as we humbly conceive) to ye detriment of church and state.

5th. Your Petitioners are not able to give a competent allowance to ye fourth pairt of ye poor of ye parich yt come to ye meeting hous so yt severall are in hazard of starving if some effectual course be not taken for yr supply out of ye church rents which your petitioners utterly despair of obtaining wtout a session legally constitut as said is.

May it therefor pleas your wisdomes to take ye severall sad circumstances of your petitioners case to your serious consideration and to cause serve ane edict in ye church of South Leith (which your wisdomes may command without any dificultie seing ye magistrats of ye place doe concur with your petitioners) for ye election of a session for ye said parich.

And your petitioners shall ever pray.

(*Note.*—The position of matters in the parish was now critical, but here the Register ends, and there is a hiatus until the beginning of 1692. From the cash book at the end of this Register we give a number of entries which throw sidelights on contemporaneous history.)

Extracts from the Cash Book of the Meeting House.

1687 *Aug* 4.—For a half hour sand glass - - - - - -	£0	7	0
For this paper book to be a Register - - - - -	1	0	0
1687 *Aug* 13.—For two ells of linen to be two clothes one to wash another time about to put beneath the basin for the collections - - - - -	1	19	0
For a case of iron to hold the sand glass - - - - -	1	4	0
1687 *Octr* 20.—To John Scot in Leith cleanser of the streets -	0	6	0
Nov 30.—To the beadell of the Meeting house in Magdalenes Chapel - - - - - -	0	14	0

(*Note.*—Magdalene Chapel, the ancient chapel of the Edinburgh Incorporation of Hammermen, still stands in the Cowgate.)

1688 *Jany* 12.—To the coachmen for bringing down the ministers to the ordination of Mr Wm Wishart to be minister in this place - - -	£6	0	0

1688 *Apl* 19.—To Mr Georg Sinclair late schoolmr in Leith being in straits 2 leg dollars - - 5 12 0

(*Note.*—*Vide* Minute, 13th July 1682, *supra*.)

1688 *Aug* 10.—To Elspeth Hay in St Andrews who came over to get her swelled and deformed arms cutt by those who at this time appeared on the stage in Edinburgh but they could not venture upon it as she affirmed - - - £0 6 0

Aug 24.—To Janet Robertson having a sickly husband and weak in her sight with six children very poor testified by the Skinners Hall in Edr - 0 14 0

(*Note.*—The Skinners' Hall was in Skinner's Close in the High Street. The Close was demolished about forty years ago. In 1688 it was used as a chapel of ease to the Tron Church, when it was served by two probationers.)

Octr 1.—For a psalm book to the Meeting House - - £0 7 0

1688 *Octr* 6.—For wyne to the communion - - - - - 23 2 0

For bread - - - - - 6 0 0

For 1200 tickets - - - 8 0 0

For 4 cups - - - - - 9 12 0

For a barrell to put the wine in 1 4 0

For sack to the minrs and preachers and such as were wt them upon Thursday, Saturnday, Sabbath day and Munday - - - - - 8 0 0

To the beadell for his extraordinaire service at the communion - - - - - 2 18 0

1689 *Feby* 22. — To Margaret Jamison prisoner in the Tolbooth of South Leith - - 0 14 0

Mch 1.—To Wm. Thomson com out of Ireland having all his goods taken from him by Tyrkonells army - - - 0 14 0

Mch 28.—For making a grave and a winding sheet to the deceast Margt Gibb a poor woman out of her right wits - 1 10 0

May 19.—By sum collected for the distrest Protestants from France and Ireland according to the appointment of the Convention of Estates - - £203 14 4

May 23.—To Andro Oliver a cripple to help to buy a tree leg to him - - - - - 0 3 0

June 27.—Given for the buriall of Janet Nasmith a poor gentlewoman who died in South Leith viz a dead chest, a winding sheet, making the grave and the going of the bell - - - - - 5 16 0

July 11. — To Isabell Grant having a pass from the Baillies of Edinburgh for going to the North - - - - - - 0 14 0

Aug 1.—To Janet Smith robbed by the Irish and fled for her life - - - - - - 0 10 0

Aug 8. — To Geills Maitland whose husband was killed at the trenches of Edinburgh - 1 4 0

To Margaret Gordon whose husband went with M'Kay to the late engagement and knows not whether he be dead or living - - - 0 10 0

Aug 15.—To ane poor woman whose husband was killed in the late engagement betwixt Major General M'Kay and the Viscount of Dundee - 0 18 0

Sepr 5. — To Daniel Wilson, soldier who was wounded at the Blair of Atholl by the highland men - - - 0 10 0

Octr 3. — To Margt Forrest spouse to Alexr Steuart wounded at the engagement between M'Kay and Claverhouse - - - - - - 1 10 0

Novr 7.—To Mary Walker whose husband was killed at Killiecrankie - - - - - 0 6 0

Novr 21. — For the Scots prisoners in France - -	£71	15	0
Decr 5.—To Adam Weir, student in the College of Edinburgh -	2	0	0
Decr 12. — To Alexr Mitchell driven from Ireland and robbed of all there - -	2	0	0
1690 *Jany* 23.—To a distrest gentlewoman spouse to William Rae greatly wounded in the engagement by sea upon the west of Scotland and was from Ireland recomended also by the Magistrates of Edr -	1	4	0
1690 *Feby* 13.—To Patrick Scot and Margt Cunningham . . . great sufferers by persecution and the men banished to Jamaica but suffered ship-wrack at Orknay by the way	1	16	0
Feby 20. — To John Paton a great sufferer for truth -	0	8	0
1690 *Mch* 6.—To James Logan from Ireland being one of those who defended Londonderry in the last siege yrof -	0	12	0
Mch 13.—To John Shearer fallen very poor through his being a great sufferer in these late times - - - - - -	0	14	0
Mch 27.—To John Nicolson in Dinsyr recommended as a great object of charitie - -	0	18	0
Apl 17.—Given unto the Moderator of the Presbytery for the relief of some prisoners sent to Barbadoes for conscience sake being a Sabbath days collection - - - - -	8	17	0
May 12.—By contribution appointed by the Town Council of Edr for those that suffered by the late fire at Edr - -	40	0	0
July 3.—To James Nimmo professor of the Art of Navigation from Londonderry - -	0	12	0
Aug 14.—To John Hay and Wm. Frazer who were taken by a French privateer as they were coming from the West Indies whose goods were all taken from them to the value of £700 starling - - -	4	7	0
Sepr 18.—To John Cherrie from Ireland having his son a poor scholler learning his greek at the school - - - - -	0	8	0
Novr 27.—To Anna Margarita whose husband is in King Williams service in Ireland -	0	6	0
1691 *Mch* 15.—To Marjory Cruden who fell over the Shore among the ships anchors and was sore hurt - - - - - -	0	14	0

(*Note.*—One of the old Leith traditions is a story entitled "Lucky Cruden's Pow." Lucky Cruden owned a small brewery in Giles Street, opposite the Vaults.)

Aug 20. — To Elizabeth Scot whose husband was killed abroad in their Majesties service - - - - -	£0	12	0
Octr 1. — To Jannet Stewart whose husband was killed at Killiecrankie she going upon stilts - - - - - -	0	12	0
Decr 9.—To John Graham taken by the French and relieved by exchange recommended by the captain in whose ship they returned - - - - -	0	7	0
Decr 24.—To Robert Park, clerk to the Commission of the Kirk for the extract of their act touching the eldership of Leith	2	18	0
To the beadell of the Presbytery for bringing doun the extract from the clerk of the presbytery - - - - - -	0	14	0
For two ells of linen for servitors for the use of the meeting house - - - - -	2	18	0

1*st January* 1692.—A Register of the Sederunts of ye Kirk Session of South Leith begining ye first day of January 1692.

(*Note.*—This Minute Book is on the outside page entitled: "The Session Book of the parioch of South Leith begun ye first day of January 1692." The Minutes begin while Mr Wishart's congregation continued to worship at the Meeting House Green, for, as was seen above, they did not get possession of the Church until 10th August, 1692. Until this date therefore Mr Wishart's Session met presumably in the Meeting House, but from and after 11th August 1692, the meetings of Session took place in the Church.

Before the Minutes begin there is inserted in the first page of the book a narrative of events which is given below. As the narrative itself bears, it is inserted in obedience to a Minute of Session dated 4th January 1694 in the following terms:—"Becaus severall difficulties may occur to those yt read ye registers of this parioch for ye years 1691 and 1692, it was offered by ye Moderator that ye following paper might be insert in ye first leaf of the register which the clerk accordingly has done." The narrative is as follows.)

In the year 1687 when there was a libertie granted by King James a considerable number of families in ye parioche both of South and North Leith did asociat together into one congregation and sett up one meeting hous near to the Sherif Brae and on July 14th, 1687 choosed seven persons to be yr representatives and in January, 1688 Mr William Wishart (being called by them) was setled by the presbitery minister of the said congregation. After this setlement it was thought fit that the heads of families belonging to the congregation should choose out some of yr number to be assistant to ye Minister in the affairs belonging to ye congregation which was accordingly done on ye 21st of September, 1688 years which meeting of assistants continued till ye first of January 1692 and all that was done be them in ye said meeting hous with relation to ye church government and discipline and ane accompt of ye collections and distributions together with ye mariages and baptismes celebrat in ye said meeting hous from ye 7th of July 1687 to ye 1st of January 1692 are to be found in a book in quarto which is ordered by ane act of the session of this parich dated the 4th of January 1694 to be keeped among the records of this parish.

But after presbiterian government was setled by act of parlament yr being a totall vaccancie of a session to take inspection of the whole parich becaus the assistants Mr Wishart had were chosen only to take inspection of ye congregation in ye meeting hous and the prelatick eldership keepit up by Mr Charles Kay one of ye prelatick incumbents (the other incumbent viz, Mr James Waugh, being first depryved for not reading and praying and afterward removed by death) was not conform to ye present establishment Therefor a great many of the said parich who were well affected to ye government did address ye presbitery that the forsaid vaccancie might be supplied by a session constitut for ye whole parich which was accordingly done (according to ye custome and practise of this church) in ye meeting hous (the presbitery having no access to the church) on ye first Sabath of January 1692 and for the same reason the session thus settled had yr severall dyets of meeting in ye meeting hous till ye 10th day of August 1692 (as appears from ye register book) on which day Mr William Wishart was by the presbitery entered in possession of the church as minister of the parich of South Leith in the room of Mr James Wauch after which time (Mr Kay not being received in to a share of the government) Mr Wishart preached on ye Sabath forenoon in ye church and on ye afternoon in ye meeting hous and on thursdays preached in ye church and meeting hous per vices And Mr Kay preached on ye Sabath afternoon and every other thursday in ye church as may appear from ye register of baptismes and mariages But notwithstanding that the presbitery had as said is setled a session for ye whole parich yet Mr Kay keeped up the prelatick session who mett in ye session hous till ye tenth day of August when Mr Wishart was entered to ye church and after yt in ye Cantore above ye utter porch till ye 28 Feberwary 1693 at which tyme the session settled by the presbitery obtained a decreet of ye lords of yr Majestys Most Honll. Privie Counsell declaring them to be the only legall eldership and session and ordaining Mr Charles Kay's session to delyver up to them ye poors box, all rights of mortification and uttenciles of ye church etc.

1*st January* 1692.—(at the meeting hous) Reported that according to the appoyntment of the presbitery Mr John Anderson had solemnly admitted the elders and deacons (after forenoon's sermon on Sabath last in ye meeting hous) to take the inspection and oversight of the whole parich of South Leith, the names of them are here again insert (then come the names of 15 elders and 15 deacons.)

Upon ye same day the session unanimously agreed that Mr Andrew Young as formerly should continue clerk of the session.

(*Note.*—Mr Andrew Young came from Newcastle as mentioned under 8th December 1690.)

Ye session appointed three of yr number, viz:—Robert Douglas, Alexander Mathisone and James Plain to attend the presbitery too morrow to desyre they would interpone yr authoritie for continueing Mr William Wishart younger Moderator.

Appoints Robert Douglas, Alexander Mathisone and James Plain to bespeak Baillie Grahame and Bailife Baird and shew them that it is the earnest request of this session that one of them at least will be pleased to countenance the session with yr presence every thursday becaus many things are likely to fall in yt will require ye advantage of yr presence and concurrence.

7 *January* 1692.—(Att ye meeting house) Bailife Graham and Bailife Baird came in and were present at ye session this day and promised yr concurrence and also at the desyr of the session promised to appoint ye officers to attend ye call of ye session.

The persons foresaid having spoken severall members of ye presbitery anent the protestation against Mr Kay's pretended session Reported that such as they spake to advysed to forbear till ye sitting of the Assemblie upon which the session thought fitt to desist for a tyme.

The severall members of the session did voluntarily agree to pay 4s. scots to ye poor for each dyets absence providing they be within two miles of ye place and who cometh after prayer or goes away befor the last prayer to pay 2s. scots.

7 *January*, 1692.—Robert Douglas produced an act of the presbitery as is here insert and registrat—"January 6, 1692, This presbi- "tery being adressed unto by the session of "South Leith that they may call for the session "books of South Leith and the church uttencils "This presbetry refers and recomends ye matter "fully to ye magistrats of South Leith to call "for them from Mr Kay or in whose soever "hands they are which in their name is signi- "fied by *sic subscribitur* John Hamilton Presby "Clk."

Robert Douglas was chosen to officiat as Baillife of St. Anthons for this year. These following were chosen to officiat as masters of the Hospitall, viz:—Alexander Mathisone for ye trades, Thomas White for ye maltmen, John Taillefer for the traffeckers.

14 *Janry.* 1692.—Reported by some of the session that the baillies had ye last thursday appoynted ye officers to attend ye session when called.

Appoints ye clerk to buy three books in folio one for ye sessions acts and another for ye accompts and ye third for the mariages and baptismes and to buy a box to stand on ye session table for collecting ye mulcts.

Appoints ane elder and deacon by course to goe through the toun each Sabath day in tyme of sermon forenoon and afternoon and to observe who are on ye streets or otherwayes prophaine ye sabath by drinking or oyrways and to call ye officers to goe along with them.

And the session finding that those of ye Sand quarter had yr turne the last Sabath appoints Alexander Mathisone and James Meldrum to goe through this following Sabath in ye forenoon and Patrick Glass and William Baird afternoon and so ye rest in order.

(*Note.*—The presbyterians being now restored to power much zeal was displayed in the various phases of church work, particularly in discipline. The functions of the searchers were made more definite, and the minutes contain numerous cases of microscopic offences and innocent vices.)

Feberuary ye 8, 1692.—Reported ye Court of Saint Antons did not hold becaus ye rights of St. Antons were not gotten up from ye pretended session and ye Baillie could not prevaile with ye Clerk of Saint Antons to goe along with him nor could he find any besides him acquaint with ye affairs of the said court.

March 10, 1692. — Informed by the Searchers Sabath last that John Lindsay had in his hous two companies of people in tyme of sermon, Appoints him to be summoned against ye nixt Session day.

24 *March* 1692.—The Session finding that ye officers wait not on ye Elders upon ye Sabath day recommends it to these who are appointed to speak with ye magistrats to tell them of ye officers delinquencie

May, 12, 1692.—The Session being informed that Robert Wishart in Caltoun drew watter out of his well himself on ye lords day Appoints him to be sumoned against ye nixt session day.

June, 2 1692.—Reported yt ye national fast was keept here in this place on ye last Wednsday of ye month being May 25.

June 16, 1692.—Appoints Robert Douglas . . . to consult James Stuart and Mr Hew Dalrymple Advocats anent ye affair of ye session touching ye uttencils and appurtinancies of ye church and yt the thesaurer defray ye charges and also appoints them to prosecute everything necessary in that affair.

(*Note.*—This was no doubt Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees (now Moredun) near Gilmerton, who was at the time Dean of the Faculty of Advocates. He lived in Advocate's Close, which was so named from him after his appointment to be Lord Advocate in 1695. Sir Hew Dalrymple was a son of Viscount Stair. He became Dean of the Faculty in succession to Sir James Stewart, and in 1698 was made President of the Court of Session. He was one of the commissioners appointed to arrange the Articles of the Union of which he was a great supporter. Another well-known advocate employed by the session was Sir Francis Grant, and a minute of 2 December 1708 instructs the treasurer to "compliment him with a half-dozen carts of coal.")

June 23, 1692.—Reported by the persons appointed to attend ye publick concernes of ye session that they have consulted as was ordered and that James Stuart's advice was that ye call formerly given Mr Wishart to ye meeting hous might be approven by the Heritors and Elders as a call to ye whole parioch and that ye presbitery should settle him in ye church in ye room and place of Mr Waugh whereupon ye session would have a clear title to ye appurtenancies of ye church and yt they did shew ye presbitery ye consultation who yrupon did order as is underwritten.

"The presbitery of Edr. do recomend to "Mr John Anderson to preach nixt Sabath at "ye meeting hous of South Leith and appoints "him immediately after sermon in ye forenoon "to make intimation to all ye heritors and "elders and masters of families within ye "parioch of South Leith to meet at ye said "meeting hous on . . . to hear and receive "what return they shall make to ye presbitery's "proposal concerning Mr William Wishart "Minr. yr and that none pretend ignorance "they appoint yr officer to make intimation "heirof Sabath nixt after forenoon sermon in "ye church or at ye church door of South "Leith and there to affix and leave a full "coppie heirof. *Sic subscribitur* John Hamilton "Presbty Clerk."

23*rd June*, 1692.—Reported by the members of ye Committee for ordering ye seats in ye Meeting Hous that it is yr opinion that ye soume of ane hundred and eightie pound will be put on ye seats (conform to ye draught here present) as a yearly rent beginning at ye terme of Whitsunday last by past and that it be payed every year per advance, and that the first years be payed in to ye theasurer within fourteen days after ye next Sabbath by ye several possessors of ye seats according to yr respective proportions.

The session having heard ye foresaid overture read and having considered ye same doe unanimously approve of the same and enacts accordingly and also taking to yr consideration ye inconveniences yt attend ye paying of ye rent of ye Meeting house by a Collection through the several famillies have unanimously concluded for several weighty reasons that ye said rent of the Meeting house should be laid upon ye seats yrof and have in order yrunto laid a just proportion yrof upon the severall seats according to yr place in the Meeting house, to be paid yearly per advance at ye term of Whitsunday. And ye first years rent to be payed in to ye theasurer within fourteen days after the dait hereof, which failing ye seats

unpaid to be declared vacant and at ye dispossall of ye session and appoynts these presents to be intimated to ye Congregation on Sabbath nixt that non may pretend ignorance.

July 1, 1692.—Mr Johne Anderson haveing preached in the meeting hous on Sabath last made ye intimation according to ye appointment of ye presbitery and David Low haveing intimat ye same at ye church door on ye said day there did meet here this day immediately after sermon the magistrats of Leith severall heritors of ye parioch together with the session and a great many masters of families and Mr Wishart's call being called for and the said meiting haveing had ye call under yr consideration it was unanimously approven by all present as a call to ye whole parioch.

July 29, 1692.—Appoints . . . to attend the presbitry this day at two a clock in ye afternoon for ye effect yt ye presbitry may presently proceed to setle our minister Mr William Wishart in ye church.

The minister informed ye session that he had designed to celebrat ye sacrament of the Lords Supper here in ye meeting hous but was straitned yrin becaus his call to ye vacancy in ye church was in dependence.

August 5, 1692.—Reported be the persones apointed to attend ye presbitry for setling of ye minister that ye presbitry hath fixed on Wednsday nixt being ye tenth of August instant to setle Mr William Wishart in ye church.

Apoints Jasper Johnstone . . . to speak with ye magistrats and desyre them to make ye church doors patent for ye presbitry against Wednsday nixt.

(*Note.*—Reference should be made here to Mr Kay's Minute Book under date 11 August 1692, which shows the dramatic manner of Mr Wishart's entry to the church. The Minutes from this date bear the heading "At ye church of South Leith." It may be noted that the forces of civil authority were made to serve the requirements of the church by a simple request made to the magistrates. *Vide* minutes of 1st January and 1st December 1692.)

Aug. 11, 1692.—The Magistrats Baylie Grahame and Baillie Baird being present compeared Mr Charles Kay ye prelaticall incumbent and craved libertie to speak to baillie Graham which ye session could not hinder but seeing Mr Kay did not speak to ye moderator or any other member of the session nor presented any desire to them they did not think themselves concerned to say anything to him and so after some discourse with Baillie Graham he went away.

This day the session delvyred to John Cook keeper of ye seats the Key of ye Cantore and ye keyes of ye session hous door and ye keys of ye backgate together with a bundle of keyes said to be ye keyes of ye seats.

Reported that Mr Kay refusing to give up ye keyes of ye church or so much as to open the church doors the magistrats was necessitat to caus break them up and new keyes being made without altering ye locks the session appointed the thesaurer to keep ye said keyes and John Calder to call for them from him when he hath any occasion to ring ye bells.

Reported that yesterday being ye tenth of August the presbitry according to yr own appointment admitted and entered Mr William Wishart minister of ye church. The magistrats concurred with ye presbitry in all ye circumstances of ye action pertaining to them as such.

Things found in ye session hous are the pulpit cloath, the session table cloath, ye readers cloath, the cloath for ye ministers seat and two buffet stools for ye collection; besyde these nothing else was found belonging to ye church.

1 *September*, 1692.—The session considering yt George Huton yr precentor in ye meeting hous was no good musician and unfit for ye church though ane honest man and yt ye present clerk Mr Andrew Young was diverted from his proper work in waitting on ye schooll and being resolved yt ye schooll masters place and ye clerks place shall still remain distinct according to the ancient custom of this place they were content to commune with John Selkraig upon this head.

The Minister gave in a paper from John Selkrig ye tenor whereof follows:—

"Moderator, I thought fitt (that ye session might ye better consider on it) to give my answer to your proposal in a few lines. The

proposal was to be clerk to ye session and precentor in ye church and to teach musick and to have all ye casualties which belonged to them which were formerly in that office also you told me yr was noe cellary but only ten mrks scots which the session gave as a sort of acknowledgment; now considering ye division that is in ye parioch that not above one pairt of three doth acknowledge your clerk either for baptism or mariage by which ye casualties will be very inconsiderable so I hope upon this consideration the session will add as much more to it as they shall think fitt to be in place of a cellary untill ye parioch be unitt in one and then after ye session shall find them to be sufficient to be a maintainance then the session may doe in it as they shall think convenient."

The session having taken this paper into consideration did make choise of John Selkrig to be precentor in ye church (and in ye meeting hous also while it continues) and clerk to ye session and agreed to give him £40 Scots for the first half year, together with what casualties he might have from ye office.

(*Note.*—The Minutes of this session clerk are very voluminous and written in quite a modern style. It has not been possible to go systematically through the prodigious mass of material contained in this volume. Until recently all fees for proclamation were perquisites of the session clerk, and they varied in different places and at different times. From 1880 the fees have belonged to the church and are uniform, being 2s. 6d., except in one or two parishes.)

15*th Septer.* 1692.—The session concluded that the clerk was to mak intimation ye nixt Lords day that the heritors are to meet with the session in this church on tuedsay nixt to consider upon ye proclamation emitted by ye Lords of yr majesties privy counsell anent ye poor.

29 *Septer.* 1692.—The session appoints a Committee as follows . . . to meet at ye church on Munday nixt at nyn a clock in ye morning to receive in ye rolls of ye poor and to consider upon yr condition and to calculat what may maintain them and to report ye same against ye nixt session day.

The session finding in a bag qlk ye minister hath in his custodie about 1000 tockens yt were formerly made use of in ye meiting marked as in ye margin ($^{S.\ L.}_{M.}$) they appoint Wm. Livingstoun to caus mak 611 to be added to them.

(*Note.*—The letters refer no doubt to South Leith Meeting House, and indicate that these were metal tokens. Previous minutes refer to "tickets." Square tokens are mentioned in a minute of 2 July 1723, and round tokens in minutes of 2 January and 25 June 1724. These were marked "S. L. K." on one side, and the last named, of which some remain, bore a figure of the church on the other side. *Vide* C. Irons' History, Vol. II., p. 430; and an article in the Church Magazine of July 1906 by the late Mr Goalen.)

The session allows ye minr to draw a paper anent ye ordering of ye stationes of those yt are to serve ye tyme of celebrating ye Lords Supper.

3 *October*, 1692. — Appoints Alexander Mathisone to take doun all these seats in ye church yt were wont to be taken doun when ye sacrament was celebrat in Leith in former tymes and to sett ye communion table and seats with ye table for ye ministers in due order.

Appoints . . . to provide sex dozen of fyne wheat bread and six gallouns of claret wine likeways table cloaths and oyr linens flagons cups as also what is needful for ye session hous.

The session appoints ye fast day befor ye sacrament to be upon Wednesday being ye 12th instant and to begin at 12 a clock.

The elders of ye severall quarters are to give out ye tockens to ye people of this parioch who are to communicat according to ye ministers order.

Appoints William Livingstoun to caus make 400 tockens now which will be in all 2000.

Appoints . . . to goe to Currie to engadge Mr Henrie Hamilton, and . . . to goe to Abercorn to engadge Mr Alex. Dalgleish to assist ye tyme of ye communion.

10 *October* 1692.—Recommends to ye Thesaurer . . . to view ye church and to see how many candles will be needful and to order them accordingly.

(*Note.*—Candles were used in the church until about 60 years ago, and seatholders were in the habit of providing their own lights for the dark days. There are members presently in the church who can recollect all the transitions of lighting, viz., candles, paraffin, gas, and electricity.)

The Minister is to intimat upon Saturnday at 12 a clock yt if yr be any people from ye countrie yt knowes not of quarters yt ye elders and deacons are to conduct them to some emptie lodgings to stay in.

Appoints sermon to begin on Saturnday at 12 a clock and on Sabath day at 8 a clock and on Monday at 9 a clock.

Follows ye paper drawn by ye minister conform whereunto every member of ye session had a paper of directiones given them.

(*Note.*—This paper is the order of communion, and resembles the orders of which extracts have already been given. It is, however, very detailed on account of the importance of this sacrament, and it concludes with the following directions for distributing tokens.)

You are to distribute ye tockens according to ye following directiones :—

1. You are to give none tockens but whose names are underwrin.
2. Give to none till they signifie yr desyr to communicatt.
3. If any of these be strangers you are to give them noe tockens unless they show yr testimonialls.
4. Give none to such as ye know to be scandalous.
5. Give none to them that are at feud and not reconciled.
6. Give none to such as are marked unless they be earnest and press to have ym and also seem to be serious.
7. Such as you give tockens to exort to self examination and serious preparation.
8. If yr be any tockens left delyver ym back to ye minister.

20 *October*, 1692.—Reported be the members of ye session yt all of them waited upon yr particular stationes appointed them for which they were commended and aproven.

The minister is to goe through and take up ye names of ye whole inhabitants within ye parioch and ye elders are appointed to attend him thorough their respective bounds.

3 *November* 1692.—The session in compliance with ye proclamation emitted be ye lords of yr majesties most honourable privy Counsell took into yr consideration ye various cases and conditions of ye whole poor in ye parioch and calculated with what exactnes they could what every ones case and condition would require to keep them from begging and appointed ye names of the severall persons to be recorded in ye register as followeth :—

(*Note.*—Here follows a long list of names of poor persons of which the numbers are here given according to the different quarters, viz. :—Sands (1), Hill (5), Tolbuith (18), East Lees (8), Mid Lees (14), West Lees (6), North Lees (7), South Lees (1), Restalrig (18), Caltoun alias Craigend (11). Then comes a list of stranger poor, twelve in number, with their children. The limits of the different quarters of the parish varied probably from time to time. A later minute states that the Sands quarter began at James Ridley's tenement down the Shore, and included all the lanes, Quality Street and Rottenrow, now Water Lane.)

The session considering that for ye present they have noe money to dispose upon but yr own collections at ye church and meeting hous door and that the saids collections will make but a small part of what is requisit for relieving ye forsaid persons . . . they doe yrfor appoint Robert Douglas . . . to speak wt ye magistrats in name of ye session and earnestly to desyre yr concurrence for obtaining ye rights and revenues mortifications collections and all oyr appurtnancies yt remain in ye hands of ye pretended session as also to give to ye magistrats a list of ye stranger poor above named and to desyre yr concurrence for expelling them as also if they think fit to send ye drum through ye toun wt ye first convenience and discharge all persones from begging becaus ye poor of ye parish are now setled in a maintainance and discharge ye inhabitants to give them any charitie and to discharge all landlords to sett houses or harbour any stranger poor who are not able to maintain themselves.

Appoints ye forsaid persons to consult some Advocate what methods will be most proper to be used for obtaining ye rights revenues etc. from ye pretended session and if it will be proper presentlie to arrest ye church rents revenues etc.

Appoints ye thesaurer to give to ye poor of ye parish above named yr several pensions allotted ym and that for the ensuing week only till the session further consider of this business

and see what be done about the church rents and revenues.

8 *November* 1692. — Reported that ye magistrats had sent ye drum thorough ye toun conform to ye recommendation ye last session day.

Robert Douglas . . . was commissionat to goe to Mr Kay's pretended session and yr to protest against yr procedure anent ye poor.

John Forbes and jean barclay his spouse haveing a badge from ye sessions of south and north leith recomending them to Christian charitie this session ordains them to go to ye session of north leith to try if they can get anything from them for maintainance and then this session will consider them likewayes and in ye meantyme the session gives them 12s.

17 *November* 1692.—The minister is to intimate ye nixt Lords day yt ye people most either enlarge yr charitie towards ye poor otherwayes the methods of ye proclamation most be followed.

The session approves of ye thesaurers paying ye poor this week and ordains him to pay ym ye nixt week also.

24 *November* 1692. — Agnes Dalmahoy being sumoned was called compeared and being questioned for breach of Sabath by cutting of cale (*i.e.*, kail) she said it was not herself but her daughter and promised the like should not be done again.

1*st December*, 1692. — The minister informed ye session yt ye presbitry had appointed a visitation in this church on Wednsday nixt to declare Mr Kays pretended session to be no session and to discharge them to proceed to any new election for ye nixt year.

(*Note.*—This was a further blow to Mr Kay. The first charge was now held by Mr Wishart; he was also taking steps to appropriate the funds and endowments of the church, and Mr Kay was now about to be deprived of his session, and with it of all semblance of authority.)

Appoints . . . to speak wt the magistrats and to show them yt it is ye earnest desyre of this session yt they be present on wensday nixt to attend ye presbitry in this church.

Appoints . . . to speak with ye barron baillie and with ye master of Balmerinnoh and Craigentinnie to desyre them to be present likeways.

5 *December*, 1692.—Appoints . . . to wait upon Robert Douglas baylie of St. Antons to goe to Georg Davidson or any who has the keys of ye Cantore above ye outter porch and to desyre up ye said keyes that so they might entertain the presbitry in ye Cantore as they came from Edinburgh befor they went in to ye Church.

(*Note.*—At this date there were two doors at the east end of the church as at present. There was no door at the west end, as there now is, but on the north side of what is now the tower there was the north door and porch. This doorway was removed in 1846, and a window substituted, but the site is indicated by a label or scroll over the window. Originally the main entrance to the church was by the west door underneath the west window, and similarly the label of this door can still be seen above the lower west windows. The label above the present west door has been added for decoration merely. A newspaper correspondence on this and other matters appeared in the *Scotsman* in August 1852.)

5 *December* 1692.—Robert Douglas and ye rest appointed wt him to meet in ye ministers house did meet accordingly and ye proposals they had thought upon to be made to ye presbitry were read before ye session which they unanimously approved of and were ordained to be drawn out and presented to ye presbitry upon Wensday which proposals are insert at ye end of this sederunt.

(*Note.*—This paper contains eight questions upon which the session craved the advice of the reverend brethren of the presbytery.)

1. How we shall goe on in ye exercise of church government and discipline in ye parish seeing we are much obstructed by Mr Charles Kay and his pretended session.
2. What methods we shall follow in settling a maintenance for ye poor of ye parish seeing we are much impeded and retarded in this likewayes be ye said pretended session, who refuse to give up ye Church rents rights revenues etc.

It is hoped yt if the reverend brethren of the presbitry would concern ymselves in this matter these things might be had from them.

3. How ye place shall be provided in a well qualified Schoolmaster the Schoolmaster yt is here at present being so unfit to teach that ye youth is lost and parents are att so great trouble about yr Children.
4. What methods we shall follow in electing and setling ane eldership for ye ensuing year.
5. What methods will be most proper in christian prudence for gaining ye dissenting pairtie in ye parish.
6. What will be ye most effectual way for preserving such as are much in danger of seduction and in hazard to be drawn away to ye popish religion.
7. What shall be done with these who produce testimonials for mariage under ye hands of ye late incumbents.
8. Anent scandalous persons.

The session also humbly desyres of this reverend Presbitry.

1. (About the session.)
2. That the Reverend Presbitry would (during the present Sederunt) send some of their number to view ye walls windoes and roof of the Church and to consider how ye ruins yrof shall be repaired.
3. (Respecting Testimonials.)
4. That the compts of the pretended session may be visited that so ye reverend brethren of ye Presbitery may know how ye church rents and revenues are managed.

15 *Decr* 1692. — Reported be Jasper Johnston that he had received from ye presbytery's Clerk the extract of the Presbytery's advyce which ye Clerk said was a full extract of all that ye presbitry concluded in answer to our paper given in to them, a coppie of ye said extract here followes.

Att the church of South Leith ye 7th Decr. 1692.—The which day ye presbitry of Edinr. having mett here according to ye appointment for a visitation of this church, Mr William Wishart minister of ye said church of South Leith (after sermon preached before ye said presbitry upon his ordinary so appointed) was called before them, who having answered ye ordinary questions at a visitation was removed and yrafter his elders and deacons being called and asked ye ordinary questions in such a case and after yr ansers yrto was also removed Thereafter ye heritors of ye said parish being called yr answer to such questions as were likewise put to them being heard, they were likewayes removed. All which being considered by ye Presbitry they exorted ministers heritors and elders and encouraged them to go on in ye work of ye Lord. Thereafter an address was presented to ye said presbetry by ye said session of South Leith craving advyce about several things and ye same being read ye pairties were removed And being again called in and asked if they had any mortifications, It was answered there are some but ye evidence of them are in ye hands of Mr Charles Kay and his pretended session. Being asked about the Church utensils it was answered they were in ye hands of ye said Mr Charles Kay. Being asked if yr Minister had a manse, it was answered he had none, Being asked who maintains ye fabrick of ye Kirk, it was answered that the session maintains ye widest of ye main roof and the great glass windoes of both ye gavels and also the high glass windoes upon ye walls of ye main roof, that ye Master of Balmerino maintains the aisle upon ye north side both roof and glass high and laigh and, ye four incorporations with ye seamen maintains all ye rest of ye church which being considered by ye presbytrie they appointed Mr David Williamson and Mr John Moncrief, Ministers with Patrick M'Carra and Mr James Bartram ruling elders to goe and visit ye fabrick of ye said church with ye walls, windoes etc. and to take tradesmen along with them, who having viewed the same they returned and reported to ye presbetrie yt they viewed ye fabrick of ye church and found severall places of it so ruinous yt they see no way how to repair ye

same unless ye several persons concerned and obliedged yrto doe repair their respective pairts according to use and custome and yt the same would be done speedily to which report ye presbetrie acquiesced. . . . .

(*Note.*—The advice by the presbytery proceeds to say that Mr Wishart's session was the only legal session, and that Mr Kay had no ground for having a session, and discharged him to proceed. The advice concludes by narrating a protest taken by one of Mr Kay's session, Alexr. Goodall, tailor in Leith, who "compeared in a furious and discomposed manner" in company with a notary public. The other side to the story is given in Mr Kay's minutes of 8th December 1692. The Mr David Williamson referred to in this minute was minister of St. Cuthberts, and is the well known "Dainty Davie" of Scottish song, who had six wives ere the seventh, Jean Straiton, survived him. He died in 1706 and was buried in St. Cuthberts' Churchyard, where his tomb still stands. He is referred to as "Mess Williamson" in a Ballad sung by one of the mob in Scott's "Heart of Midlothian." One of his daughters was the mother of the "Bonny Dr Johnston," the well known minister of North Leith from 1765 to 1824.)

15 *Decr* 1692.—The session being informed yt Patrick Gardner his wife was not so kindly to ye old man her father-in-law as she ought to be appointed . . . to speak with her, and to exort her to be more kindly to him and to tell her yt he was coming home to stay with her and her husband.

(*Note.*—There was practically no limit to the zeal and enterprise of kirk sessions at this period. Their daily programme was a preaching in the forenoon and a persecution in the afternoon.)

22 *Decer.* 1692.—It was proposed by ye minister that (according to ye old custome of this place) every member of ye session should pay half a crown for maintaining ye session table and table cloath and ye seats in ye session hous.

The elders and deacons brought in every man his leet of two persons and according to ye ordinary custome ye session proceided to choose ye session for ye ensueing year and choosed ye persons whose names are under written and ordered ye names to be publickly read out of ye pulpit ye nixt Lords day and yt if any person had any thing to object against any of them they might come to the session house upon thursday nixt betwixt ye hours of 11 and 12 in ye forenoon and give in yr objections to ye session.

(*Note.*—Here follows a list of 15 elders and 15 deacons. The next minute states that none of them were objected to, and the new elders were then ordered to come to the elders' seat on Sunday to be received before the congregation.)

10 *January* 1693.—Mr William Whyte Schoolmaster of South Leith was ordained to be sumoned against ye nixt session day.

Appoints . . . to get information anent Mr William Whyte concerning his drinking playing at cards banning or swearing or strikeing or any other scandalous practises and to give in to ye clerk any information they can gett.

26 *Janry.* 1693.—Reported be Robert Pergillies yt he had spoken to ye constable of north leith and yt he gave them libertie to encarcerat any person they pleased in ye tolbuith of north leith.

2 *Feby.* 1693.—Reported yt ye Baillie of St. Antons kept a Court at new haven on fryday last according to ye appointment of ye session and yt he had also holden another Court on Munday last in ye Session hous. The session commended his dilligence and approved of his holding Court on yt day.

The session appoints a Court upon Munday at nyne a clock in ye morning and ye vassalls of St. Antons to be warned in to pay ye few duties as also ye vassalls of ye hospitall lands.

(*Note.*—The Registers make frequent references to the Hospital lands. It should be explained that one property, the Holy Blood acre, received its name because its revenues maintained an altar, called by this name, in St. James Chapel, Newhaven.)

7 *Feberuary*, 1693.—Intimation being made ye last Sabath day yt ye heritors were to meet wt the session this day to consider upon ye poor, the heritors being called and ye session being conveined did cast up the quota of what might entertain ye poor of ye parioch which they found to amount to £60 scots weekly or yr about which they did proportion among the heritors and inhabitants according to ye severall cases and abilities.

The session with such heritors as were present concluded yt ye church rents and

revenues should be pursued for befor ye Counsell and appointed Jasper Johnston . . . to consult ye Kings advocat yr anent.

20 *Feby* 1693.—Appoints to be summoned a gentlewoman in ye glass house at ye back of ye Yard heads.

20 *Feby.* 1693.—Appoints Jasper Johnston . . . to go with our minister to his grace ye duke of hamilton anent ye pursueing for ye church rights and revenues etc.

(*Note.*—It will be remembered that Mr Kay's Minute Book ended on 23rd February 1693. Mr Wishart and his session did not meet from 20th February till 6th March 1693, and in the interval they no doubt consulted the King's Advocate and the Duke of Hamilton. They also obtained a Decree from the Privy Council on 28 February (referred to under 27 July 1693 *sub*), and the result followed that Mr Kay and his session passed out of existence so far as South Leith history is concerned.)

6 *March*, 1693.—The session considering ye great disadvantages of delaying the revising of ye minutes ordains ye clerk to give ye Minuts of each sederunt to ye minister to be revised by him befor ye nixt sederunt.

The session being informed yt Mr William Whyte who was lying under process befor ye session did take occasion from yr absence (while they were pursueing for ye church revenues and appurtinances befor ye privy counsell) to demitt in favor of Mr Kay's pretended session and yt yr was a young man keeping ye school they thought fit to send one of yr number for this young man.

The session finding ye business of searching on ye Sabath the tyme of sermon was much neglected they resolve henceforth yt on every session day yr shall be ane express appointment of ye session for yt effect and yt the persons so appointed shall give ane accompt of yr dilligence on ye nixt session day yrafter. Appoints . . . to search upon Sabath nixt forenoon and . . . afternoon.

The session being informed yt yr are a great many strangers in ye toun upon ye Sabath day in ye afternoon and threatens ye searchers deferrs it till thursday that it may be reported to ye magistrats.

30 *March*, 1693.—The minister represented to ye session yt seing ye business of ye 100 lib payable to him for a manse occasioned so much clamour in ye toun he was firmly resolved to pass it in tyme comeing but craved he might have a manse provided for him and declared yt he had given over his hous and would not take another in this place whereupon the session appoints . . . to meet in ye church upon Monday nixt at 8 a clock in ye morning to consider on a manse to ye minister.

(*Note.*—It seems to be the case that the ministers of the first charge, from this time, had no manse until the present one was bought about 1846, through the exertions of the Rev. James Grant, who had plans prepared for building one at Parsons Green, a district which he claimed to belong to our church. These plans are still in the hands of the Session. Mr Grant lived at No. 3 Cassells Place. His predecessors, Dr Dickson and Mr Scott, lived respectively in Bernard Street and the Kirkgate. The ministers of the second charge do not appear ever to have been provided with a manse. The Rev. John Logan lived in the Tolbooth Wynd and the Kirkgate; Dr Robertson in Stead's Place, and Mr Duff in Charlotte Street and Restalrig Road.)

8 *June*, 1693.—It was overtured by ye committee yt application should be made to ye magistrats to desyre them to appoynt some of ye poor yt are able to work some little to cleanse ye streets of ye toun to which ye session agreed.

12 *June* 1693.—The session being convened to receive Mr John Anderson, doctor of ye grammar school of ye Canongate, to be yr schoolmaster and ye beadel having called 3 several tymes if there was any yt had anything to object to him but none compeared, then the session went to ye school and after the minister had exorted him to ye duties incumbent on him he was received and got ye keys of ye school door delivered to him upon ye same conditions yt those had yt were formerly in that place.

(*Note.*—This appointment to the grammar school was intimated from the pulpit, and the candidate had previously to appear before the Presbytery. He received £5 stg. to transport himself and his family to Leith.)

13 *July*, 1693.—Appoints Jasper Johnston . . . to goe to ye K. Advocat to gett his advyce what shall be done anent getting ye kirk the Sabath afternoons.

27 *July*, 1693. — Reported be william Stocks yt when he was searching in Caltoun Sabath was eight dayes he found ane Jean Hislop att ye well and when he offered to take the stoup from her she said "ye dare not for your hanging." Then he said he would report it to ye session. She ansred she cared not for ye session and also she came again to ye well and said "hinder me and you dare for your hanging." Appoints her to be sumoned to ye session.

(*Note.*—This unruly woman was summoned three times to the session, but compeared not, and was referred to the magistrates to make an example of her "for her guilt and contumacie.")

The session being informed by Baillie Cuningham that yr are many people who sweer on ye fast dayes the session appointed ye searchers to take notice if any such thing fall out again and inform ye session and ye bailly being present said he would order ye officers to take some of yr cloaths from them.

27 *July*, 1693.—Reported that Mr Kay had entered ye Kirk again and that ye Advocats advyce was yt nothing could be done anent him untill ye Counsell sitt.

Double (i.e. *copy.*) *of ye Discharge be* Mr William Wishart *to* Mr Charles Kay.

Be it known to all men be thir presents us Mr William Wishart present minister of ye gospell in South Leith Thomas Whyte present bayllie of St. Antons and Alexr. Mathesone present thesaurer to ye kirk session for ourselves and ye said present kirk session for als much as ye lords of yr Maj. privie Counsell by yr decreet of ye 28 Febry. last have found me ye said Mr William Wishart and my eldership and session are ye only legall session of south leith and therefor decerned and ordained Mr Charles Kay also minr. at South Leith and his late session to delyver up to us ye poors box with all ye rights of mortifications, registers of ye session and uttencils of ye church whereupon wee raised letters of horning and by virtue thereof caused charge ye said Mr Charles Kay and ye haill elders and deacons of ye said late session to delyver up to us the same and now seeing in obedience to ye said decreet and charge the said Mr Charles Kay and his late session hes delyvered up to us the writs evidents and securities of and concerning ye kirk session of South Leith and preceptory of St. Antons with ye uttencils of ye church and registers of ye session and likewas seing Thomas Fenwick maltman in Leith John Burton baxter yr Robert Innes ventner yr late masters of King James's hospitall hes delyvered up to us for ourselves and in name of ye present legall session of South Leith the writs securities and others of and concerning ye said hospital Therefor witt ye us ye said Mr William Wishart Thomas White and Alexander Mathisone to have exonered quhite claimed and simpliciter discharged Mr Charles Kay. . . .

(*Note.*—The rest of this document discharges Mr Kay and his session, and admits that they have fully implemented the decree which was procured against them.)

Att ye Church of South Leith 15. *August* 1693.—Reported that ye Committee did meet anent ye Impost but made noe procedure yrin and that they spoke wt Andw. Crockat who lifted ye impost for ye Toun of Edinr. these two years bygone and that he could give no account anent it preceeding these two years, but that enquiry might be made at ye tacksman of ye impost. And for oyr things belonging to ye session it was yr opinion that nothing could be done yrin till ye former session make count and reckoning.

Att ye Church of South Leith, 22*nd August*, 1693.—Reported by ye Clerk that he had collected of ye poors money yt was laid on by Act of Counsell from ye 27 of March to ye 22nd August 1693 ye soume of one hundred and fiftie pound eleven shillings scots money and all ye rest are deficient.

Appoints ye Deacons to goe through yr severall quarters in toun and landward and to seek in what is wanting from ye deficients till ye first Tuesday of August and to certify them that if they refuse they will be given in to ye Magistrates and ye deacons to give in yr report to ye Minr. and ye Clerk. And ye Clerk is to draw out a list of ye deficients in ye toune of Leith and give ye same to ye Magistrates and to give a list of these in ye Landwart pairt of

ye Parish to ye Sherriff, the Minister being to sign ye same according to ye Act of Counsell concerning ye poor.

The session with ye heritors present and ye Magistrates concurring took again under yr consideration ye business of ye poor and they found that ye poor of ye parish might still be maintained for about fourtie pound per week or yr about. But besyde that yr are a great many incident charges as ye maintenance of four or five foundlings, the repairing ye roofe and windows of ye Kirk and keeping ye Clock and Bells and occasional support of poor and ye salary to a collector. Whereupon they found that they could lay on no less than fiftie pounds weekly qlk together with what may be collected at ye church door from such as are willing to give will be little enough to defray ye foresaid charges expecially concerning yt it cannot be expected but yt ye quota laid on will fall short by reason of ye removing of some familys, ye falling back of others and ye decease of others; they find likeways yt of ye foresaid soume of fiftie pound they can lay no more upon ye Heritors of burgh and landwart then six shillings scots per month on the hundred pounds scots of yearly rent which they find to amount to Nineteen pound two shillings six-pennies weekly having calculated what is every heritors proportion according to a roll to be keeped in retentis be ye session and subscribed be Mr William Wishart, Thos. Whyte Alexander Mathison, James Miekle, James Henderson and Jasper Johnstone.

The Meeting finds that yr are several of ye heritors within ye toun are inhabitants and have oyr wayes of living beside yr heritage. Therefore they thought it fitt that they should bear some of ye burden of ye thirtie one pound which remains of ye fiftie together with ye rest of ye inhabitants of ye parish and that conform to anoyr roll to be keeped in retentis be ye session and subscribed by ye persons above mentioned.

And whereas there is about Five hundred pounds scots payable by ye vassals of St. Anthons and four pound payable by ye Vintiners for each tun of wine vinted in Leith, which ye meeting finds will be little to pay ye severall sallaries, vizt:—Two hundred merks to ye doctor, Fiftie marks for School rent, and Fiftie merks for ringing ye bell etc. Yet they charitably judge that something may be had at ye church door from strangers and others to make up what may be wanting.

The session appoints Alexander Mathison, Thomas Whyte and Jasper Johnstone to gett ane extract of all yt is done at the meeting under ye hand of ye clerk. And consult some Advocate for addressing their majesties privy counsell for yr civill sanction hereunto becaus ye method taken doth not every way quadrat with ye proclamation anent ye poor.

2nd October, 1693.

"Petition to the Town Council of Edinburgh:

"That although it may be evident how much it is for the glory of God and the interest of the government, that piety and good order flourish in this place, where there is such a confluence of strangers, not only from other parts of the kingdom, but from foreign nations, yet it is not unknown to your lordship and honours what profanation and wickedness and other disorders do abound in this place, to the dishonour of God, the scandal of the protestant religion, and the great grief of all pious Christians; and although your petitioners have been endeavouring to use the power and authority God hath intrusted them with, for redressing of vice and wickedness, yet people are so headstrong in a sinful course, that they contemn the government and censures of the church. All which your petitioners, taking to their serious consideration, do humbly conceive, (with all submission), that the constant residence of a magistrate in the place, to whom ready application may be made upon all emergencies, may contribute very much for suppressing the evils aforesaid. For although the magistrates we have had for some years past have been faithful and diligent in the exercise of that power wherewith they were intrusted, yet by reason of their residence at such a distance there are many disorders fall out, for stopping whereof no timeous course can be had, and much libertie is taken by profane persons, upon whom the constant

residence of the magistrate would have an awful restraint."

(*Note.*—This petition was carried to the Town Council by a deputation of nine members of the Kirk Session, but was treated with no respect, and matters remained on their old footing. The Magistrates did not always find it convenient to attend in Leith, and the minute books of the Court of Leith contain such entries as the following:—"No court this day in regard the bailie came not down." It is well known, of course, that the controversy about the Leith Magistrates largely contributed to the movement which ended in Leith becoming an independent burgh.)

14 *December* 1693.—Reported by Bayllie Mr Cleland yt severall of the Incorporations had spoken wt him who said they were content each incorporation to maintain yr own poor and had desyred him to acquant ye session yrwith that they might appoint some of yr number to meet and confer wt them yranent.

(*Note.*—Bailie Cleland was James Cleland, merchant burgess of Edinburgh, whose family had been hereditary foresters to the great Earls of Douglas, and whose representatives to-day possess a manuscript history of the family from the days of Wallace and Bruce, under whom their ancestors fought. The Clelands owned the estate of Meadow Place, Corstorphine, the name of which was changed to Dunsmure when Bailie Cleland's grand-daughter married into that family. Dunsmure now belongs to the heirs of the late Mr Pringle Taylor, W.S.)

The session having considered ye petition given in by Janet Alexander bearing yt by Act of session she was allowed to have from ye masters of King James his Hospitall ten pounds scots yearly and now finding that she hath some consideration from ye wrights and masons they appoint her to get from ye masters of ye said hospitall £6 scots yearly in tyme comeing.

4 *January* 1694.—Becaus severall dificulties may occur to these yt read ye registers of this parioch for ye years 1691 and 1692 it was offered by ye moderator that ye following paper might be insert in ye first leaf of the register.

(*Note.*—This paper is given above at the beginning of Mr Wishart's Minute Book. See page 165 *supra.*)

25 *Jany* 1694.—Ane accompt was produced by ye Theasurer extending to fiftie five pounds, fifteen shillings scots for putting a partition wall in ye Ministers house, of which soume ye Minister allowed fourtie eight pounds payable to him for ye Kirk yeard for four years. The session appoints ye Threasurer to pay himself of ye remains of ye said accompt which is seven pound fifteen shillings scots and allows the Minister to dispose of ye said partition at his pleasure.

25 *January* 1694.—Mary Patoun servatrix to John Wood being summoned for breach of Sabath was called compeared and confessed yt she was cutting kale on ye Sabath day when ye searchers were goeing through but denyed yt she mocked ye searchers for qch she was severly rebuiked promiseing not to doe the like again was passed for this time.

South Leith Church, 17th May, 1694—This day it was reported by Bayllie Tailefer that ye Magistrates were intended to build a seat for themselves, above ye seat they now sit in and before ye baxters loft. The session appoints Alexr. Mathison and Robert Bowie to acquaint ye baxters yrwith and to report agt ye next session day.

26 *July* 1694.—Wm Fairservice proposed to ye Committee that he would pay £50 yearly for ye house and wind mill yard.

13 *Septr* 1694.—Collected at ye meeting hous £3 - 2 - 2.

(*Note.*—This is the last mention of a meeting house collection, from which we may infer that it ceased now to be made use of by Mr Wishart.)

South Leith Church, 13th September, 1694. —Appoynts the Threasurer and Robert Bourse to provide Six gallons of Wine and the theasurer and Robert Muir to provide the bread.

20 *September* 1694.—Appoints intimation to be made Sabath nixt that such as have a mind to communicat although they get tockens yet if they be found in any manifest breach of ye fast day the elders are appointed to keep them back from ye tables.

Sermon on ye fast day to begin att ten a clock in ye morning and on Saturnday at half one in ye afternoon and on ye Sabath day att eight in ye morning and ye church doors to open at six and on Munday to begin at nyne in ye morning.

4 *Decr.* 1694.—The Moderator informed ye session that it hath been ane ancient custome in Leith to ring one bell at ten a clock at

night and desyred they might consider if it was reasonable to renew the said custome.

(*Note.*—The session consulted the masters of the four incorporations before deciding this weighty question.)

9 *Decr.* 1694.—Appoints . . . to speak to ye accommodant of ye regement yt is quartered here that he would be pleased to order a fylle (*i.e.*, file) of souldiers to assist ye searchers on ye Sabath day.

18 *Decr.* 1694.—The session (after consideration) found it necessary yt yr should be a bell rung att ten a clock att night and also ye majestrats and neighbours advyce being had yrin they appoint ye said ten hour bell to be rung and intimatione yrof to be made from ye pulpit on Sabath nixt and also agreed that John Calder who rings ye bells shall have 10 marks scots yearly added to his sallary and 12 lb. weight of candle yearly for yt effect.

24 *January* 1695.—The session considering that ye poor are in a very starving condition and yt much of ye money is spent in geting chists to them when they are removed by death Therefor they appoint ye bier to be made use of in burying ye poor of ye place and stranger poor.

(*Note.*—This minute indicates that the poor were to be borne to the churchyard on a bier, covered only by a shroud. It was customary also to have a poor's coffin with a moveable bottom, which could empty its contents into the grave. These graves were often dug by friends. The minutes up to this date make no mention of mortcloths, which were a common source of revenue to parish churchyards. When a funeral entered the churchyard the beadle reverently spread over the coffin a funeral pall; and the palls, or mortcloths, of our parish are still preserved. We also have the heavy caps provided to the men who watched the churchyard at nights, in the Burke and Hare days, in case they were shot at. These days are denoted on many of our old tombstones by the remains of iron guards fastened to the stones to protect the graves from violation.)

South Leith Church, 25th January 1695.—The Theasurer sent a lyne to ye session whereon he offers ane hundred merks for ye seats in ye Meeting hous belonging to them. Appoints William Gillon, Robert Bowie, Allan Ure, William Wilson, James Henderson, or any three of them to visite ye said seats this afternoone and to consider what may be ye value and to report to the session on Monday next.

South Leith Church, 28th January 1695.—Appoints ye Seats in the Meeting hous to be rouped on thursday next at two o'clock in the Afternoon and Intimation thereof to be made by ye drum that such as have a mind to bid for them may have ye keyes of the Meeting hous in ye treasurer's house to get a sight of ye said seats and becaus ye theasurer hath seventeen pound scots upon ye loft before ye Pulpit therefore it is to be rouped by itt self and whoever does buy ye seats are to pay ready money for them.

South Leith Church, 7th February 1695.—Reported yt ye Seats of ye Meeting hous were rouped and sold according to appointment for ane hundred pounds Scots to be payed in readie monie, which soume ye sessione appoints to be put in ye Mortificatione box.

South Leith Church, 14th February 1695.—The session being informed yt ye baxters had (contrair to yr engagement to ye session) taken off a lock off ye door yt enters into Craigentinnies Seat and put on another. The session appoints them to putt on ye lock yt was on the door formerly.

South Leith Church 5th March, 1695.—The session being informed by severall members of ye session that ye keeppers of ye keyes of ye seats belonging to ye incorporations are indiscreet to Strangers, and refuse them seats although yr is emptie roome particularly that four or fyve Officers of ye Armie were sent away by ym without a seat notwithstanding yt yr were room to accommodate them with appoints ye whole Key Keepers in ye church to be summoned to ye session.

South Leith Church 7th March, 1695.—The session considering yt yr are many of ye parishioners that hath seats in ye Church that come not to their seats till the lecture be near ended, and thereby seats are keeped emptie, and strangers refused access to them. They doe yr for appoint all ye entries and doors to seats in ye church to be cast open immediately after the reading of ye chapter for lecture in ye forenoon and immediately after prayer before sermon in ye afternoon.

(*Note.*—The lecture extended until the minister entered the pulpit at the third bell. Between the first and second bell the Old Testament was read; between the second and third, the New Testament was read. Sometimes the best scholars from the Grammar School, as a reward of merit, stood up to question and answer each other on the Catechism for the instruction and edification of the congregation. *Vide* Minute of 8th August 1616.)

18 *Aprile*, 1695.—The session being informed yt yr are multitudes of people walks on ye links in tyme of sermon on ye Sabath day they appoint . . . to speak to ye accommodant to desyre him to appoint ye gaird to assist ye searchers on ye Sabath day to apprehend any that shall be found either on ye pier or on ye links in time of sermon.

20 *May*, 1695.—The session being informed yt yr are some forms to be sold yt were in ye meeting hous for 20s. Scots per peice and yr being use for them in ye church appoints ye thesaurer to buy them and sett them in places of ye kirk yt are emptie of seats.

6 *June*, 1695.—John Calder who rings ye bells and keeps ye clock compeared and was appointed to ring ye ten hours bell att night ye space of a quarter of ane hour alwayes in time coming and also to keep the clock in better order yn formerly.

South Leith Church, 17*th June*, 1695.—Appoints Alexander Mathison Thomas Whyte and John Brown and Robert Bowie to acquaint the Commandant of ye regiment yt is quartered here that the session has appointed a seat in ye church for ye Officers and soldiers to sit in, and also to desyre him to appoynt ye guard to assist ye Searchers on ye Sabbath day, and to report to ye session against ye session day.

Reported be John Brown that he had spoken to ye Baxters and they were willing to sett ye back seats of yr loft to ye Schoolmaster but that they were sett for some little tyme, and so soon as that was expired they would sett them to him.

South Leith Church, 20*th June*, 1695.—Mr William Mitchell Minr. in ye Cannongate having preached here according to ye appointment of ye presbitry And Mr John Moncrief Minr. in Edinr. being appointed by ye presbitry to moderate in a call to another Minister for this parish and the said Mr William Mitchell being present according to ye presbitry's appointment concurred with him and having asked who it was yt were concerned in giving ye said call he was told that it was ye session and ye four incorporations wt ye concurrence and consent of ye Magistrates and Mr William Wishart and ye delegates compeared from ye incorporations according to intimatione made Sabath was eight days; non compeared for ye Seamen, Captain John Brown compeared for ye Maltmen and produced his commission Robert Bowie and John Brockat compeared for ye trades and produced their commissions, David Banks and Patrick Glass compeared for ye traffecquers and produced their commission which commissions being read were sustained.

After which ye session and ye delegates from the incorporations did unanimously elect and make choice of Mr John Gilchrist preacher of the gospell to be ye other of our Ministers in this parish, and accordingly did subscribe a Call to him in ye presence of Mr John Moncrieff and Mr William Mitchell.

The session with ye delegates appoints . . . to present ye said call to ye presbitry of Edinr. and to doe every thing requisite for obtaining ye said Mr John Gilchrist to be ye other of our Ministers.

(*Note.*—Mr Mitchell was minister of the Canongate Parish Church, which was erected in 1688, when the congregation, by order of James II, was evicted from Holyrood Chapel, which had up to that time been used as the church of the parish. Mr John Moncrief was minister of Trinity College Church, which stood where the east platforms of the Waverley Station now are, and which, after being taken down by the Railway Company, was rebuilt of the same stones in Jeffrey Street.)

1*st August* 1695.—James Henderson and William Deepie searched Sabath last afternoon and reported yt when they came to Wm. Lamb his hous and knocked att ye door they would not open ye door so wee was necessitat to loup ye yeard dykes and in ye yeard was found 3 men drinking and yrafter went in to ye hous att ye back door wee found bread and drink standing on ye table but could see no body in ye house till wee searched ye hous and found Isobell Wilson spous to Wm. Lamb in ye coal nook behind ye door appoints ye said Wm.

Lamb and his wife and . . . to be summoned to ye session.

(*Note.*—On inquiry it appeared that Wm. Lamb had been at church, and his wife was ordered to "compear before the congregation in order to a public rebuke.")

South Leith Church 1*st August* 1695.—The Magistrates of Leith represented to ye Session, that they desired yr seat in ye Church might be raised a foot higher then it was at present. The Session took ye same to yr consideration and is to speak with the baxters whose Seats are behind it to see what they have to say anent ye affair.

Appoints Captain Thomas Whyte, Captain John Browne and Alexander Mathison to speak with ye baxters anent ye hightening of yr back Seats and also to try if ye heightening of ye back Seats will prejudge these that stands in ye back trance of hearing.

(*Note.*—The Magistrates were proposing to build their seat about the middle of the south aisle, in front of the bakers' sittings. At this time the pulpit was in the middle of the north aisle, where it stood from the time of Cromwell's departure until 1848. It stood in the middle of the chairs from 1848 until Mr Combe gifted the present pulpit in 1893. Originally the altar was placed in the east end of the church, probably further east than the building now extends. At the Reformation the pulpit was erected near to its present position, and there it stood until the occupation by Cromwell.)

South Leith Church, 12*th Septr.* 1695.—Reported that yesterday being ye eleventh instant according to ye appointment of ye presbitery, Mr David Williamson, preached here and yt Mr John Gilchrist was by ye presbitery of Edinr. ordained to be ye other of our Ministers.

(*Note.*—Mr John Gilchrist, A.M., was second minister for a short time only. He became one of the forty-four ministers sent by the General Assembly to supply the want of Presbyterian ministers in the north, of whom it was agreed that 22 should remain if they received calls. He was called accordingly, and transferred to Alves in 1697.)

12 *Sepr* 1695.—Mr George Laing was admitted doctor of ye grammar school and ye moderator told him that ye master was to receive both his own sallary and ye doctors and that he was to aggree with ye doctor himself.

19 *Septr.* 1695.—Overtured by the Committee that ye people of Caltoun shall not bury yr dead upon ye Sabath day till after ye afternoons sermon betwixt ye 1st March and ye 1st October and from 1st October till 1st March they may bury between sermons (if they please) provideing always they be att the churchyard before two hours chap in ye clock of South Leith.

12*th December*, 1695.—Appoints ye Threasurer to bring his account for ye building of ye new Seats in ye body of ye Church to ye session against ye next session day.

23 *January*, 1696.—Appoints Wm. Fulton to speak to ye magistrats to desyre the drum may be sent through the toun that the impost of wines belonging to ye session is to be set by way of roup on munday next att eight a clock in ye Cantore.

(*Note.*—In Mr C. Irons' History, vol. I. p. 564, the text is given of a "Bill past by His Majesty for the wine in Leith." The Bill was presented by the Rev. David Lindsay and the members of session, fifty-five in number, whose names are given; and it bears that the repair of the church and maintenance of ministers and schoolmasters are hindered for lack of means. It suggests a tax of "40s. money for every tun of wine vended and run in Leith," and in support of the proposal it is argued that this "may be done without hurt to the vendor or seller thereof, and no dearer to the buyer." This supplication was read on Sunday, 12th September 1596, to the inhabitants of the town of Leith, "within the paroch kirk thairof," and instruments taken by David Robeson, notary public. From several minutes given above it appears that the tax exacted was £4 scots per tun of wine, and was gifted by King James VI.)

10 *Feby* 1696.—Intimation being made yesterday yt ye Heritors and neighbours were desyred to meet with ye session this day anent Mr John Gilchrist our Minister hes going to ye North.

(*Note.*—This matter was referred to above under date 12th September 1695.)

27 *Feby* 1696.—Overtured yt ye session pass ane act that ye masters of ye hospital be discharged to give out any money above £1 scots without ane act of session.

27 *February*, 1696.—Overtured be the Committee that ye session recommend to ye magistrats to pass ane Act that no ketles be boiled in change houses belonging to foreigners or in any other houses on Sabath day after nyne in ye morning till after ye after noons

sermon and yt no drink be sold or drunken in any house after ye ringing of the third bell till sermon be ended—Read and aproven by ye session.

6 *March*, 1696.—The session appoints . . . to speak with ye deacon conveener of ye trades and ye boxmasters of ye maltmen and trafeckers and to show them that seeing they usually have yr meetings in ye hospitall by ye voluntary condescension of ye session and masters of ye hospitall that yrfor they would be pleased to repair and decore the room wherein they meet att yr own expense and particularly to show them that it is ye earnest desyre of ye session that they would pay that £28 : 13/- yt was last given out for repairing and decoreing ye sd room.

6 *March* 1696.—The Minister gave ane account to ye session that according to appointment ye last Sederunt he had gotten information from ye Elders that the persons underwritten were att ye Quakers meeting and that he had caused summoned them to ye session to this day, viz—(17 names). Likewayes ye minister informed ye session yt he had caused summond Robert Barnes and his wyf Quakers in whose house ye meeting was.

(*Note.*—An enquiry was held and Robert Barnes produced a book entitled "ye christianity of ye people, commonly called Quakers," and he was ordained to compear before the Presbytery of Edinburgh.)

16 *Aprile* 1696.—Appoints to speak to Mr Laing master of ye grammar schooll and to show him yt no musick schooll is to be keeped in this place but by ye precentor.

14 *May*, 1696.—The women in ye hospitall being summoned were called and compeared were appointed to waitt upon ye ordinances both Sabath dayes and week dayes otherways they would be put out of ye hospitall.

(*Note.*—Compare minute of 19 July 1677 *supra.*)

21 *May*, 1696.—The session takeing to yr consideration the debursement of ye £28 : 13/- scots by the Masters of the hospitall upon yt room in ye hospitall in which ye incorporations use to meet they find although ye said £28 : 13/- was indeliberately debursed by the masters yet because it hath been a practise under ye former government to deburse money upon ye said room Therefor the session thought fitt that the Hospitall book should be subscribed this day and for ye future declares that the masters of ye hospitall ought not to deburse any money upon ye said room unless ye incorporations will be satisfied to pay what may be thought reasonable as ye rent yrof and if any money be so debursed by the masters it shall not be allowed by ye session.

South Leith Church, 9*th July*, 1696.—The session being informed yt Archibald Walker who keep the keyes of ye Caltoun Seats, keeped Seats closs till Sermon was begun, and some considerable tyme after and refused to let some gentlemen to a Seat because they would not give him money when he required it appoints him to be summoned to ye session.

(*Note.*—There are frequent references to the keys of the church seats, and pew-openers, armed with bunches of keys, were provided by the seat-holders. The minister on entering the pulpit bowed towards the pews of the principal landowners, who were expected to return the compliment.)

30 *July*, 1696.—Evan McGregor and David Kid searched Sabath last forenoon and had nothing to report.

No searching in Restalrig it being a rainie day.

The session with the consent of ye masters of ye hospitall appoints ye poor in ye hospitall to get six pence each of them weekly over and above what they had formerly during the present dearth.

30 *July*, 1696.—Appoints ye clerk to goe to ye clerk to ye toun Counsell of Edr. and get ane extract of ye act of ye toun Counsell appointing ye toun thesaurer to pay all bygones due to the session upon Barnie's nook and yrupon to get payment of ye last two years.

(*Note.*—Barnie's Nook or Bernard's Nook stood at the corner of Bernard Street where it joined the Shore. It took its name from Bernard Lindsay, groom of the chamber to James VI. It formed part of the King's Work, a royal arsenal which stood here and which James presented to Lindsay before going to England. This minute refers to the annual payment of £28 which James IV. gifted to Restalrig out of the King's Work. The Edinburgh Town Council purchased the King's Work from Lindsay's heirs and still pay this feu to the Kirk Session of South Leith. *Vide supra* Minutes of 17 July 1589, 22 December 1633, and 7 August 1656.)

The Session considering yt yr are many complaints made by ye neighbours for horses going in ye church yeard qrby graves headstones and turfs are broken and spoylled they doe discharge any horse to be putt in to ye church yeard in tyme comeing and refers to ye bailie of St. Antons to add his civill sanction hereto.

13 *August* 1696.—The Moderator Mr Wishart gave in a paper to ye session which is as follows.

Whereas I did in ye year 1693, as I remember, voluntarly condescend for peace sake to quit the £100 that was due to me for a house and ye session haveing yrupon undertaken to provide me wt a sufficient hous and although I have often represented to ye session these 2 years past that my body is now brought under severall infirmities by reason of ye coldnes and insufficiency of the house I have lived in with my family these 3 years past yet ye session have never provided me wt a house wherein I can live wtout evident further danger to my health this I desyre may be recorded in ye session book for my own exoneration what ever may follow hereupon.

(*Note.*—So far as the minutes at this time show nothing did follow on this protest. Compare minute of 30 March 1693 *supra.*)

20 *August*, 1696.—Appoints Mr. Wm. Wishart . . . to meet with Captain James Low and ye rest of the incorporations anent ye repairing of ye kirkyeard dykes and planting of trees round about ye same.

South Leith Church, 17th September, 1696.—James Anderson, Wright, desyred in name of ye Skippers that ye session would allow a door to be put upon ye fore seat of ye loft on ye left hand of ye pulpit which belongs to ye Skippers; the Session granted ye desyre.

24 *Septer.* 1696.—Appoints John Jamiesone to try for ye best claret wine in Leith and to inform ye thesaurer and appoints ye thesr, to take six gallons of it and also appoints ye thesaurer to cause bake eight doozen of loaves.

28 *September*, 1696.—Appoints ye tockens to be made four square as on ye margin $\frac{9\ K\ 6}{S.\ L.}$

(*Note.*—The letters refer to South Leith Kirk; the figures to the year 1696. Compare minute of 29 September 1692 *supra* and relative note.)

4 *October*, 1696.—James Hackit one of the two men yt were put in the Cantore being brought to the session said he was not well and came doun to get ye sea air and was resolved to come to ye church; he was rebuiked and promised not to be guilty of the like again.

Sermon to begin on Sabath day att eight a clock and ye collectors to come att fyve a clock.

30 *Octor*, 1696.—Margaret Johnstoune and her sister whose plaids were taken Sabath last were called in and said they came doun to see yr brother yt was sick. They were rebuiked and referred to ye magistrats.

(*Note.*—Compare minute of 27 July 1693 *supra.*)

30 *Octr* 1696.—John Jamieson compeared and confessed he was on ye links and that they kindled a match and laid down ye match at a whin bush and the whins took fire but said he did it not designedly but accidentally.

24 *December*, 1696.—The session considering that yr are severalls of ye poor dying dayllie and that much money is spent upon coffins to them and considering also the clamant case of ye poor att present they doe discharge the thesaurer to give coffins to any of ye pensioners or any other poor except such persons as have been some considerate note and credit in ye place and are fallen back qch is to be attested by ye elder and deacon of ye quarter where they lived but appoints them to be buried by the bier except ye friends bury them on yr own expenses.

25 *Febery* 1697.—Appoints the elders and deacons to give in ane accompt of what chapelands or pedagogues are in ye respective quarters.

18 *March*, 1697.—Reported by the Elders of the Sands quarter yt yr was in yr quarter two chapelands viz:—Mr John Taylzor with my Lord Arbuthnot and Archibald Stobo with my lady Colstoun.

(*Note.*—This minute refers to those Episcopalians who had private chaplains. The Lord Arbuthnot referred to was Robert the third Viscount. His mother was Lady Keith, daughter of the earl Marischal. They were strong Episcopalians and loyal adherents of the Stewarts. Lady Colstoun was the wife of Sir Patrick Broun of Colstoun in East Lothian, who, for his eminent services and loyalty to the Crown, was made a baronet of Nova Scotia in 1686.)

1 *Aprile* 1697.—The thesaurer produced to the committee the sum of £37, 17s scots of clipt and light money collected at ye church door and the said money being weighted by ounces amounts only to £29, 10s scots of true value conform to law together wt two eleven and a plack pieces and ane ill fourteen lying still in the thesaurers hand.

5 *Aprile*, 1697.—Appoints ye thesaurer to cause set up ye tent in ye Kirk yeard on Saturday morning.

(*Note.*—This is part of the order for the Communion. Throughout the eighteenth century the communion seems regularly to have been dispensed in the churchyard.)

8 *Aprile*, 1697.—Patrick Sim haveing promised to lend a saill cloth for ye tent appoints James Henderson to send to north leith for it and bring it to ye church yeard.

29 *Aprile*, 1697.—The Committee appointed to distribute ye money to the stranger poor and also to some of our own poor reported that they had distribute the whole £10 sterling and because of ye cause of ye poor they had given out £3 : 8/- scots money more which ye session approved of.

13 *May* 1697.—The session in pursuance of severall old acts discharge all persons men or women to take up or keep any schools in this town (yr are several in this town and parish) for teaching children or others in reading writing arithmetick or musick until they first make application to ye kirk session and have yr allowance and approbation for yt effect.

20 *May*, 1697.—The Committee overtured that any person who seeks to have ye benefit of burieing any dead person wtin ye church shall pay for ye use of ye poor ane hundred merks if they bury in ye south isle and if they bury in ye session house or by ye walls of ye church without the pillars shall pay ane hundred pound Scots which overture was read and approven by ye session and appoints accordingly.

(*Note.*—This is the closing minute in Mr Wishart's present Minute Book.)

17 *June* 1697.—Marjory Innes being summoned was called and compeared and said there was about 24 children at her school and she having keeped a school in Leith for a long time the session allowed her to continue. She was exorted to pray before ye children when ye schooll enters in ye morning and dismisses at night. The session appoints . . . to visit her school.

15 *July* 1697.—Appoints to make iron stanchells to ye windows of ye Cantore.

(*Note.*—The searchers confined their captives in the Cantore. As late as 25 April 1809 the minutes bear that the water engine belonging to the town was kept in the under part of the Cantore, and there were "two cells in the other wing of that house for the reception of petty delinquents.")

14 *Ocbr* 1697.—The session taking to yr consideration yt ye collection at ye church door is much wronged by a number of poor yt stands at ye doors of ye church yard, who by yr importunity get from people what they would give in to ye collection; they refer to ye magistrats to cause ye officers to expel them.

The session concludes that they will give pensions to none of ye poor but such as are not able to beg and next to persons that hath been of some note in ye place and are fallen back.

21 *Aprile* 1698.—The session considering yt yr are many children in this place whose parents are not able to keep ym at schooll, concludes to hold 8 poor children yearly at ye school to learn to read and appoints ye thesaurer to pay ye quarter payments.

4 *Augt* 1698.—Mr Alexr Laing, master of ye grammar school, informed ye session that he was about to give ye children the vaccans (*i.e.* vacation). The session refers to him to give them ye vaccans for 14 or 20 days as he shall think most fitt.

South Leith Church 3rd April 1700.—The Presbytry having appointed Mr George Meldrum to preach here this day and after sermon to moderate in a call to another Minister to this parish. And it being put to ye vote Mr James Dicksone probationer for the Ministry was unanimously elected and chosen to be the other of our Ministers.

(*Note.*—Mr Dickson was second minister until 1712. The Rev. George Meldrum was minister of the Tron

and Moderator of the General Assemblies of 1698 and 1703. In 1701 he was appointed Professor of Divinity at Edinburgh University. He died in 1709.)

South Leith Church 3rd October, 1700.—The session taking to their consideration that the glass and tirlies of the laigh great window in ye east end of the church are all broken so that children and others come in thereat and spoylls the church and the session judging that the said window belongs to the skippers, they recommend to the skippers to cause repair the said window.

17 *Octr* 1700.—It was represented to the session that ye ministers of Edr do marry people in houses and that many in this paroch are offended that the like favor is not allowed to them, the session considering that by a former act when parties do not come to ye session to give up yr names to be proclaimed they are to pay 2 dollars to the poor, and when they are married in the church at any other time than immediately after sermon they are to pay other 2 dollars; therefore the session allows parties to be married in yr houses upon yr paying a dollar more to the poor which makes 3 dollars in whole.

31*st October*, 1700.—Helen Tailzour being summoned was called and compeared and acknowledged her gilt of carrying kale on ye Sabbath day in tyme of sermon. She was appointit to appear before ye congregation Sabath next to be rebuiked.

28 *November* 1700.—William Wilson and John Web searched afternoon and reported that they saw some livery men about Robert Herdmans door and two coachmen wt ye coaches and horses who said they came down with ye Earl of Annandale, Lord Roxburgh and Lord Strathallan who were in Robert Herdmans house. The session considering that Robert Herdman had been severall tymes referred to ye magistrates for the like guilt but nothing could be gotten done anent him the session reffers the affair to the presbitry for advyce.

(*Note.*—At this time the practice of frequenting taverns was common amongst all classes. This Earl of Annandale was William, second Earl, who became first Marquis in 1701. In 1701, and again in 1705 and 1711, he was High Commissioner of the General Assembly. He was one of the leading opponents of the Union of 1707. Lord Roxburgh was the fifth earl and one of the most accomplished noblemen of his time. He was one of the Secretaries of State for Scotland and a great supporter of the Union of 1707. He was then created a duke. He served under John, Duke of Argyle, in quelling the Rebellion of 1715, and steadily opposed the policy of Walpole until his death, which took place in 1741. Lord Strathallan was William, the second Viscount and a member of one of the leading Covenanting families. His mother was Elizabeth, daughter of the great Covenanter Sir Archibald Johnston of Warriston, who was executed by Charles II in 1661.)

19 *Decr* 1700. — Reported that widow Ballantine is extruded ye hospitall and ye session having sent the beadall to see if she was come back he said that she had lain yr every night since she was extruded in our bed cloaths; the session referrs to the Bayllie of St Anthons to cause punish her for her contempt and dissobedience.

(*Note.*—Compare minute of 14 May 1696 *supra*.)

ANE SERMON

PREICHIT BEFOIR THE

Regent and Nobilitie, vpon a part of the thrid Chapter of the Prophet Malachi, in the Kirk of Leith, at the tyme of the Generall Assemblie on Sonday the 13. of Ianuarie. Anno. 1571. Be Dauid Fergussone Minister of the Euangell at Dunfermlyne.

THE TEXT.

Verses 7 to 12.

FROM the dayis of zour Fatheris, ze ar gone away from myne ordinances, and haue not keipit them: returne vnto me, & I will returne unto zow, saith ye Lord of hostes: but ze said, quhairin sal we returne?
Will a man spoyle his Godis? Zit haue ze spoyled me: But ze say, quhairin haue we spoyled thee? In teindis and offeringis.
Ze ar cursed wt a curse: for ze haue spoyled me, euin this whole Natioun.
Bring ze all the teindis into the stoirhous, that thair may be meat in myne hous, and proue me now heirwith, saith the Lord of Hostes, if I will not oppin the windowes of heuin vnto zow, and powre zow out a blyssing without measure.
And I will rebuke the deuourer for zour sakes, and he sall not distroy the frute of zour ground nether sall zour wine be barren in the feild, saith the Lord of Hostes.
And all Nationis sall call zow blissed: for ze salbe a plesand land saith the Lord of Hostes.

Note.—The sermon is dedicated "To the maist nobill and worthie Lord, Johne Erle of Marr, Lord Erskin, and Regent to the Kingis Maiestie, his Realme and lieges."

THE ARGVMENT.

LYKE as the wyse and trustie Medecineris, or the faithfull and trew Chirurgianis do not luke sa mekle (in ministratioun of thair Phisik or in applicatioun of thair Salues and Plaisteris) vnto the preset plesure or pane of thair patientis, as vnto thair profite, sa intend I this day nouther sa mekle to auoide or seik ony of thir twa, as to profite the body of Christ (quhilk is his Kirk) tuiching that maledie and sair, quhilk in my Iudgement, at this present maist cheifly vexis and anoyis it, not that I count my self abill or sufficient sa to do, but that being callit to occupy this place, in trauelling to do it, I may schow my gude will and frelie vtter my mynd, in this mater vnto zow all, according to gods word, leuing the incres to him that wirkis all thingis to his glorie and the comoditie of thame that lufe him, and thairfoir that I may the mair comodiously performe my purpois I haue chosin this Text of Scripture, now red in zour audience, preichit of auld be the Prophet Malachie vnto the Kirk of God, in the like stait that we now ar in, the principall partis quhairof ar thir, first he perswadis them to repentance with argumentis proper and conuenient to mufe them thairunto, Secundly he confutis thair rebellious answeris, & schawis them planely quhairin thay cheifly did offend. Thridly he exhortis them maist eirnestlie to amend the faultis that he laid to thair charge, promysing vnto thame gif thay do sa, the benedictioun of God and aboundance of all thingis. This is ye ground or ordour quhilk our Prophet, I say, obseruis quhilk also I purpois presentlie to follow as God of his mercy will minister his graces vnto me.

From the dayis of zour Fatheris, ze ar gone away from myn ordinances. &c.

The purpois of our Prophet is, first of all (as I haue said) to perswade his brethren the Iewis to repentance and conuersion to God, of quhais grace and mercy onlie it was, that thair name and natioun was to be found in eirth, vnrutit out and consumit, as thay are taucht in the verse precedant, but becaus it is but loste laubour to craue repentance of thame that think not thameselfis giltie, acknawledges na fault comittit, nor eftemis that thay haue ony neid of

amendment, Thairfor he dois let thame understand thair estait and that they of all vther men, had maist neid of repentance and amendement of lyfe, becaus thay wer not only transgressouris of Goddis Law thameselfis, but also, that baith thay and thair Fatheris befoir thame, had vnto that day departit from the haly ordinances & Lawis of the Lord, sa that this was na vncouth or new thing that happinnit vnto them, but ane inueterat & auld euill quhilk from age to age they were inclynit and naturally geuin vnto, in the quhilk they did euin then still continew, following in that cace thair progenitouris, quhome thay in thair maneris na less viuely resemblit then gif they had remanit thame selfis aliue vnto that hour, forasmekle as in them planelie appeirit that same stifneckitnes and vncircumcision of hartis and earis, quhairwith thair Fatheris (as sayis the constant Martir Steuin) alwayis resistit the haly Gaist, we se then brethren that the Prophetis purpois is not only to conuict thame of defectioun from God, but also to let thame vnderstand that it was als natural for thame to rebell aganis God, as to be thair fathers sonnis, for, as we vse to say, thay had it be kynd and coft it not, and zit sa far absent wer thay from acknawledgeing of this, yt thay almaist culd neuer be brocht to grant it no not then, quhen it was euin bound, as it wer, on thair backis. Of this we leirne, that lang custume to sinne, is a thing maist pernitious, for it makis that thing, quhilk of the self, is the maist abhominable to appeir nathing to thame that ar hantit thairwith, specially if God defer punischment for ony quhyle, for then beginnis man to flatter him self, to abuse the patience of God, & to wrap him self in that cairles and maist perrillous perswasioun, that God regairdis not his doingis, nor is thairwith sa heichly offendit as the Scripture beiris, and sa procedis to heap sinne upon sinne vntil ye day of wraith, zea, thairof cumis it (as sayis Solomon) that the hartis of men, ar fully set in thame to do euill becaus sentence aganis ane euill wark is not spedelie execute, for this caus, the Prophet first trauellis to walkin up thir pepill from this wickit perswasioun that his exhortatioun to repentance micht tak the better effect.

Vnto the exhortatioun to repentance, quhairin the Lord desyris them to returne to him, is addit a promeis, to wit, that he will returne vnto thame, that thay thairby may be assurit that thair repentace sall not be vnprofitable, for as it is but loste laubour and a vane purpois to perswade men to repent that acknawledgis na fault (as we haue said befoir) sa na les vane is it to exhort to repentance, albeit the sinne wer grantit, qhair thair is na hope nor assurance of mercy, for quhair na certitude of forgiuenes is, bot only a bair knawledge and horrour of sinne, the myndis of men ar rather thairby dreuin to disperatioun nor to repentance, as appeiris in Cain, Saull, Ahitophell, Iudas and diueris vtheris. Thairfoir amangis the cheif articklis of our faith that ar vtterly necessar to be beleuit vnto saluatioun this ane amang the rest is countit, namely, to beleue, the remissioun of sinnis. Of this place then, we leirne quhat is richt and trew repentance, to wit, conuersioun vnto God, quhilk as it is the richt definitioun of repentance, sa seruis it to confute ye conuersioun to creatures, and all the vaine theatricall toyis prescribit in papistrie to penitentis, quhairof I mynde not at this present particularlie to speik, seing that it is a comoun place continually taucht vnto zow in the Catechisme, and also becaus I purpois to intreit ane vther mater contenit in this Text mair at lenth.

Nouther is it to be pretermittit that the Prophet vpbraidis the pepill of his tyme with the wickitnes and rebellioun of thair foirfatheris, quhilk suppois it appeir at the first to be vncurteously & vniustly done, zit gif we considder quhat maner of men he had to do with, we sall se that he was iustlie mouit sa to do, for first the pepil yt he delt with wer Hypocrites that boistit and gloryit of the Richteousnes of thair Fatheris, and vnder the pretence thairof leuit maist licentiously and wickitly, thinking it aneuch that thay wer discendit of haly and verteous Fatheris. Thairfoir he is compellit to lat thame se quhat maner of men thair Fatheris wer, to the end that thay micht the mair eirnestly prepair them selfis to repentance, quhill they suld se yt cloik takin away quhilk thay supposit yai had vnder the tytill of thair foirbearis.

And in this sens do not only the Prophetis in the auld Testament frequentlie cast the

faultis of the Fatheris in the teith of the Iewes, but also Iohne ye Baptist, Christ and his Apostillis do the same in the new Testament as in their sermonis and doctrine euidently appeiris. Secundly, thir pepill followit the futesteppis of thair Fatheris in doing of euill, or ellis the prophet wald not haue delt sa rigorously with them, for thocht a wickit man (as sayis Ezechiell) begit a sone, zit gif he feare and comit na sic wickitnes, his Fatheris impietie sall not be laid to his charge, bot gif he follow his Fatheris euill exampill then will the Lord visite the iniquitie of the Father vpon ye sone. Thairfoir maist iustly (say I) ar thir pepilis wickit Fatheris castin in thair teith becaus thay ar found in ye lyke wickitnes

Mairouer we haue heirof to obserue how vane a thing it is to boist of our progenitouris, seing that thair are nane of all our Fatheris, quhais lyues being straitly examinit but that thair salbe found in thame mater aneuch to thair codempnatioun, & also occasioun aneuch to abate that pryde quhilk we are wount fulischelie to consaue of thair halynes, it teachis vs also how far furth we may without danger follow them yt haue passit befoir vs, to wit, sa far furth as they obey God and his worde, vtherwayis thair exampill will not serue to excuse vs, becaus the langer that wickitnes continew, and the ma that do commit it, it is the mair abhominabill in Goddis sicht, and the neirer vnto vengeance. And this mekle being spokin for the first part lat vs proceid to the secund.

But ze said quhairin sall we returne? &c. Albeit that thir pepill wer giltie, and had offendit God ma wayis then ane, as the crymes laid to thair charge be the Prophet in the Chapteris precedant testifyis, zit becaus he dois specifie na particulare cryme now in this place, thay begyn to quarrell with him according to thair accustomit maner, and to answer him as thay had done at all vther tymes, demanding quhairin thay suld returne? Na vtherwise nor thay had bene giltles, & had bene rebukit without a caus. Thairfoir that thay may be na mair dissauit and blindit with sa gros Ignorance, the Prophet declarin unto them that besyde all the rest of thair sinnis, whilk wer mony, thay wer fallin in a new offence (quhilk thair Fatheris for all thair wickitnes neuer attemptit) namelie sacrildege, in that they outher fraudulently retentit that quhilk was sanctifyit and dedicatit to God and to his worschip, or elis conuertit and turnit the fame to vther vsis nor was appointit. Quhairin albeit thay monyfauldlie offendit, zit dois ye Prophet comprehend all vnder the name of teindis and oblatiounis, becaus thay specially wer euill payit and withaldin from Godis Ministeris the Preistis and Leuitis, to quhome the teindis, oblatiounis, and first fruits appertenit be the Law of God, besyde all vther thingis that the Lord appointit vnto them asweil for the Sacrifices, their awin sustentatioun, as for the relief of the pure. And thairfoir had they na vther inheritance in Israell, then to defraud them thairof it was nane vther thing bot to spuilze them of that quhilk God had geuin them as ane heritage for thair seruice quhairwith thay seruit him in the Tabernackle of the Congregatioun, quhairunto they had als gude richt as ony man in Israell had to his field or Wynezaird.

Notwithstanding the pepill, vnmyndefull of thair dewtie, efter thair returning out of Babilon, delt sa vnmercyfullie with the pure and sa nigardlie and fraudulentlie with the Preistis, that the pure wer compellit to lay thair Winezairds and thair housis in wed for corne to eit in thair necessitie, and sum also made bondmen and slaues of their sonnis and douchteris for money to pay the Kingis tribute, zea, and the Leuites for laik of their portiounis left thair offices, sa that the hous of God was forsakin as it is written in the buik of Nehemiah. Of this fraude, negligence, and cauldnes, I dout not bot the pepill had their excusis, as the pouertie that thay wer brocht to in thair banischment, the greit expensis maid in reedefying the towne and Tempill, togidder with the continuall warris, incursiounis and hostilitie yt thay sustenit of thair nichtbouris, to their greit and importabill charges, zea, and that the Preistis, to quhome chiefly thir things did belang, wer vnworthie of thame, being negligent in thair offices and of corrupt conuersatiounis, as appeirit in thair mariages with the Heathen and familiaritie wt thame to the greit hinderance of ye wark of God. Thir excusis, I say, thocht

the pepill micht haue pretendit zit dois the Lord admit nane of the, but maist schairplie rebukis and conuictis tham of ye horribill cryme of sacriledge, quhilk also he dois aggrauat be a comparisoun, quhairin he conferris him self with the Idolis of the Natiounis, and the ingrate behauiour of Israell to him with the obseruance and fidelitie of the Gentiles to thair fals Godis. Will a man (sayis he) spoyle his Godis? Zit ze haue spoylit me: In this sens also dois ye Prophet Ieremie, aggrage, the inconstancie and defectioun of thair fatheris from God, in thir wordis—Go ze to the Iles of Chittim and behauld, and send vnto Kedar and tak diligent heid, and se quhidder thair be sic thingis. Hes ony Natioun changeit thair Godis? quhilk zit are na Godis, Bot my pepill haue changeit thair glorie for that quhilk dois na profite, &c. Sum thinkis that the word, Godis, signifyis in this place Iudgeis or Magistratis, vnto quhome the Lord compairis him self, ressoning with ye pepill efter this sort, What man is sa schameles or fulehardie that dar be sa bauld as to spoyle his Iudge, King or Magistrate? quhilk zit ar bot men (suppois, be ressoun of thair office, I haue comunicate my Name to thame calling them Godis and Children of the maist heich) And zit sa greit is zour monstrous audacitie, that ze dar spuilze me quhilk am zour Lord Eternall and only trew God. This interpretatioun is not altogidder to be reiectit, forasmekle as it hes na inconuenience nor absurditie in it, zit dois the first (in my Iudgement) better expres the prophetis mynd, and mekle mair dois aggrauat the pepillis cryme. For was it not a horribill thing to se the Heathen Idolatries mair deuoit, reuerent, and faithfull to their Idolis and fals Godis nor the Iewes wer, to him that only is the verray trew God? And zit sa was, for as thair is na Natioun sa barbarous or beistly, that has not this perswasioun, that thair is a God, sa quhat sa euer thay anis set vp to thame selfis for God, that thay obstinatlie hauld still in reuerence and estimatioun, vsing nouther fraud nor gyle, nor zit spairing ony expensis about ye thingis that thay haue dedicate to thair honour, bot Israell that knew God or (as the Apostle sayis) rather wer knawin of God, and vnderstude thair dewtie toward him be ye reuelatioun of his will contenit in his word, defraudit him of his honour, and spuilzeit him of the thingis appointit to his worschip. And becaus thay wald not be estemit sic men thay querell still with the Prophet na less proudlie nor thay had done befoir, demanding of him zit anis agane quhat thair offence was, Quhairin (say thay) haue we spoylit the? Thairfor without ony parable he planely pronunces theme giltie of sacriledge in that they spuilzeit the Lord in teindis and offeringis.

Heirof then Brethren we obserue that God countis him self spuilzeit of yt quhilk was withhaldin from the Preistis & Leuitis, not that thair cumis ony vtilitie vnto him thairof (for he neidis na thing of ouris, nouther eitis he the flesche nor drinkis the blude of Bullis nor Goatis as sayis the Psalmest) bot becaus the Lord had ordanit that the Preistis and the pure suld liue of the teindis, and that the first frutis of all things suld be offerit vnto him in remembrance that all thingis wer ressauit of him, thairfoir iustly callis he the teindis and oblatiouis his, specially being now sanctifyit vnto him and appointit to his worschip, of the quhilk also he is spuilzeit, quhensaeuer yai ar with haldin or applyit to ony vther vse. Nouther culd thir pepill excuse thair fraud be the vnworthynes of the Preistis, for gif thay had only thairwith bene offendit, doutles thay wald haue eirnestly socht for reformatioun, quhilk think thay did not, quhairof it appeiris that all this abuse procedit of thair awin priuate, auaritious, and corrupt affectiounis, quhilk maid them in this ane sinne monyfauldlie to transgres. For first, thay schew thame selfis to haue bene prophaine and proud contempneris of the grace of God and all externall Religioun, in that thay wer cauld, slaw, and negligent to mak ony coist to mantene those thingis quhairby God seillit vp his presence and habitatioun amang thame. Secundly, thay manifestly brak Godis Law quhairin thay ar straitly commandit, faithfully to pay thir thingis to the preistis and Leuitis. Thirdly, thay wer ingrate and vnthankfull vnto God, in denying vnto him a part of the incres of thair substance of quhome thay had ressauit all. Fourtly, thair auaritious impietie is euident in this, that thay sufferit the Leuitis for want of thair leuingis to fal away from the seruice of God. Fyftlie, thay wer

iniust that withheld the wageis from Godis seruandis, yt was dew vnto thame for thair labour, quhairunto also thay addit inhumanitie & vnmercyfulnes, defrauding the pure of thair sustentatioun appointit unto thame of God.

Bot ane micht thinke, quhat neidis all thir wordis quha knawis not yt the teindis and oblatiounis wer ordanit be God to sustene the Preistis and Leuitis in the auld Testament, and that thir pepill wer worthely rebukit of the Prophet for withhalding of thame, bot quhat belangis that to vs? I answer, that as we subscrive the Prophetis doctrine and with him this day condempne thir pepil, sa gif we wil examine our selfis, we sal find thair schooe (as we vse to say) meit aneuch for our fute, and our trasgressioun in this point to be nathing inferiour vnto thairis. For suppois the Leuiticall Preistheid be abrogatit, zit hes ye Lord a Kirk for quhais edificatioun he hes ordanit Ministeris, Pastouris, and Teicheris, quha aucht, be the ordinace of Christ him self to haue thair rewaird for thair labour, quhairunto the Apostle wrytand to the Corinthianis aggreis, affirming, that the Lord hes ordanit, that thay quhilk preich the Gospell suld liue of the Gospell. And as for the pure, baith Moses and our Maister do witnes that we sall neuer want thame, quhome also we ar bound to sustene and charitabillie to prouyde for. How cairfullie the Primatiue and first Kirk vnder the Gospell prouydit for thair Ministeris and the pure the Actis of ye Apostillis & paulis Epistillis do testifie, quhairin we se euerie Congregatioun not only cairful for thair awin pure, but also reddy to relief ye necessitie of the pure sanctis that dwellit far from thame. Thair Ministeris also with thair famileis wer honorabilly sustenit in all thingis necessarie, thocht sum of zow haue spokin in derisioun, that suppois ze be bound to sustene the Minister, quhat to do haue ze with his wyfe and children? Brethren for my part I wald ze had Angelis to zour Ministeris gif ze wer worthy of thame, or that it wer the will of God, bot seing that God willis not so, bot that ze salbe seruit be the Ministerie of men, it behouis zow to tak thame as thay ar, with all thingis yt of necessitie belangis vnto thame or lawfully dependis on thame, sic as are wyfes, children and familie, quhilk not only must be honestly reulit and the children haldin vnder obedience with all honestie (as Paul teichis) bot also must be prouydit for hospitalitie, quhilk all men knawis requyris baith foirsicht and expensis. Ze se then that the Ministeris of the primatiue Kirk (that leuit befoir Princes wer Christianes and nurischers of the Kirk as it was Prophesyit) wer na beggeris, suppois thay wer no Lordis yt aboundit in superfluous welth as the Papis Bishoppis did, bot had sufficient, asweill for the necessitie of thair awin famileis, as for the help of vther Christianes, that now and then, as occasiounis seruit repairit to thair housis. Efterward quhen the tyme come foirspokin be Dauid that Kingis and Empreouris and thair Kingdomes suld serue the Lord and bring giftis vnto him, thay prouydit for ye kirk. Not as the Heathen Idolateris did for thair Preistis, bot as the Eternall God of auld vnder the law prouydit for his Ministeris, to wit, that thay suld be maintenit with ye teindis, sa following his exampil that only is wyse, that ordanit be thair authoritie yt the Teindis sulde serue to the same use in the tyme of the Gospell, adding also of thair awin substance diueris vtheris rentis and possessiounis, making thame yt taucht thame in the word of God, (according to the doctrine of the Apostle) pertakeris of all their gudis. Efter this sort I say did the godly and christiane Empreouris and Kingis prouyde for the preicheris of the Euangell, the scuilis, the pure, the Kirkis, & quhatsaeuer ellis belangit to the externall worschip and seruice of God, quhairupon all the substance befoir mentionit alwayis was spendit sa lang as outher puritie of doctrine, or the ancient seueritie of disciplin remanit in the visibill Kirk. Bot how sone that euer superstitioun enterit in and the disciplin decayit, the Kirk rentis also began to be mispendit, for sum wer sauld, sum set in few, sum reft be Tyrannis and wickit men, and the remanet wes deuorit be the Locustis that come out of the smoke of ye bottomles pit, quhais Impietie albeit god has reuelit, and banischit be the preiching of his word from among vs, zit is not that substance quhilk thay abusit restoirit agane to the richt use, bot als prophanely and wickitly spendid this day in Scotland as euer it was.

Then the same accusatiounis and com-

plaintis that God vsit, of auld, be his Prophet aganis the Iewes, serue this day aganis thame that ar lyke the Iewes in transgressioun, zea, the serue aganis vs: For this day Christ is spuilzeit amang vs, quhil yt quhilk aucht to maintene the Ministrie of the Kirk and the pure, is geuin to prophane men, flattereris in Court, Ruffianes and Hyrelingis. The pure in the meane tyme oppressit with hounger, the Kirkis and Tempilis decaying for laik of Ministeris and vphalding, and the schuilis vtterlie neglectit and ouersene. Ar not thir things so? Behald the wayis and streitis & ze sall se thame (to the greit dishonour of Christ and decay of the commoun welth) replenischit with beggeris and vnbrydilit zouth, albeit na man amang vs, that may not, nor can not sustene them selfis, suld be sufferit to laik. Our zouth also aucht to be nurischit and maintenit at the schuilis, that thairoutof efterward micht spring preicheris, counsellouris, Phisiciounis and all vther kyndes of leirnit men that we haue neid of. For the schuillis are the seid of the Kirk and commounwelth, and our Children ar the hope of the posteritie, quhilk being neglectit thair can nathing be luikit for, bot that barbarous ignorance sall ouerflow all, for suppois God hes wonderously, at this tyme steirit vp preicheris amang vs, euin quhen darknes and ignorance had the vpperhand, he will not do sa heirefter seing we haue the ordinarie meane to prouyde them, quhilk gif we cotempne, in vane sall we luke for extraordinaire prouisioun. Israell was miraculuslie fed in the wildernes with MANNA, bot how sone thay did eit of the corne of the land of Canaan the MANNA ceissit, nouther had thay it ony moir, bot leuit efterward on the frute of the ground ordinarlie laubourit with thair handis. I speik to prudent men that may vnderstad & iudge quhat I say: Bot now to speik of zour Tempilis quhair the word of god suld be preichit and the Sacramentis Ministeritall men seis to quhat miserabill rewyne and decay thay ar cum, zea, thay ar sa prophanit, that in my conscience, gif I had bene brocht vp in Germanie or in ony vther countrie, quhair Christ is trewly preichit, and all thingis done decently and in ordour according to Goddis word, and had hard of that puritie of Religioun that is amang zow, and for the lufe thairof, had takin trauell to visite this land, and then suld haue sene the foull deformitie and desolatioun of zour Kirkis and Tempilis, quhilk ar mair like to scheip cottis then the housis of God, I culd not haue iudgeit that thair had bene ony feir of God or richt Religioun in the maist part of this realme. And as for the ministers of the word they are vtterly neglectit and cum in manifest contempt amang zow, ze Raill vpon thame at zour pleasure, of thair doctrine (gif it serue not zour turne and aggre not with zour appetytis) ze ar becum impatient, & to be schort, we ar now maid zour Tabill talk quhome ze mock in zour mirrines, & threatin in zour anger. I am compellit to speik this, thocht I be als plane as plesant, and appeir to zow as the greitest fule of ye rest to stand vp heir to vtter that quhilk vther men thinkis, weil, let me be countit a fule speiking the treuth, I regaird not, nouther may I spair to speik it, thocht I suld be Iudgeit, in our awin caus, to be caryit away with particular affectiou, following heirin the exampil of our Prophet Malachie, quha (gif credite may be geuin to Hierom) was Ezra the Preist, the stait of quhais tyme, gif we mark his buik diligentlie, properly aggreis with this prophesie. And zit thocht he was a preist, he sparit not, frely, at the comandement of god, to rebuik thame that defraudit the preistis of the teindis & oblatiouis appointit vnto thame. This is it that muifis me, let men iudge as thay lyst, to lay out befoir zour eyis the miserabill estait of the pure Kirk of Scotland, that thairby ze may be prouokit to pitie it, and to restoir the thingis that iniustly ze spuilzie it of, leist the Lord requyre at zour handis the blude of thame that perische in default of the richt dispensatioun of thir thingis. I speik not this to prouoke ony priuat man to retene in his hand that quhilk he is bound to pay to the possessouris of the beneficis, becaus thay may mispend it, no, bot rather exhortis thame faithfully to pay thair dewteis, and commit the punischement of the abuse to God that behaldis the doingis of all men, and will rewaird euerie man according to his warkis, as appeiris in the wordis of the Text quhilk follow.

> Ze ar Cursit with a Curse: for ze haue spoylit me, euin this haill Natioun.

Becaus thir pepill acknawledgeit nor felt not the grauitie of thair sin as thay aucht. The prophet puttis thame in mynd of the punischement that hidderto thay had sustenit thairfoir, namely, that thay were cursit with a curse, signifying that thay wer al maner of wayis miserabill and vnhappy, and quhy? becaus not a few of thame, bot that haill Natioun had spuilzeit the Lord. How miserabill thir pepill wer efter thair returning from Babell, the bukis and prophesies of Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggay and Zechariah do witnes, to wit, that thay wer only hatit and inuyit, of all the Natiounis adiacent, quha continually socht thair distructiou baith be secreit dissaitis & oppin Hostilitie, bot also wer oppresit with Famine, derth and scarcitie of all thingis, quhilk maid thame to complane, grudge, & murmure aganis God, as thocht ye cause of thair infelicitie had procedit of him. Quhairunto the Lord heir answeris, as it wer in thir wordis, ze complane of zour miserie bot ze persaue not the cause, I grant that ze ar miserabill, zea, that ze ar cursit and vnhappy ma wayis then ane, bot the caus is in zour selfis that hes spuilzeit me of that quhilk was dedicat to my honour, and thairfor ze can not be blysit quhyle ze defraud me of yt quhilk is myne. That thir pepill wer iustly plaguit we all confess, bot wald God that we culd considder our awin estait, apply this to our selfis & mak our frute thairof: For thocht all men meruell at the cruell weiris, vnfruteful seasounis, strange diseasis, derth, famine, and other incommoditeis quhairwith ye warld is oppressit. Zit they considder not, that the maist part of men are sa inobedient and vnthankfull vnto God, that thay deserue to be na better intreatit bot rather vorse. And to pas by vther Natiounis let vs try our selfis; we profes Religioun, zit ar we barrane of the frutis thairof: for euin thay thingis without the quhilk Religioun can not stand ar scarse to be found amang vs, sic as ar faith, innocencie, puritie of lyfe, charitie and Inuocatioun of Goddis name. And as for the teindis and rentis of the Kirk, the almous of the pure, and sic thingis as we are bound to bestow vpon ye maintenance of Goddis honour and richt Religioun (thocht we be prodigall in vther thingis) zit in thame ar we negligent, cald, fraudulent, gredie, and nigard. For as sumtyme Kingis, Prencis, Lordis & vther potent men liberally inrichit the Kirk, sa now be the contrair all thair trauell is to satiate thair gredynes with the spuilze thairof. Can the warld then luik for ony prosperitie, happynes, tranquillitie, or benedictioun from God quhyle thay thus neglect his honour? Na surely. Ze meruel, I dout not, quhy ze haue not preuailit aganis zone throtcutteris and vnnaturall murthereris within the Towne and Castell of Edinburgh, specially ze hauing a maist iust actioun, being ma in number and mair vailzeant men, and nathing inferiour to thame in wisdome, circumspectioun, or ony gude qualiteis outher of body or of mynd, bot ceis to meruell: for the caus quhy that ze haue not preuailit aganis thame lang or now, amang mony vther zour sinnis quhair with ze ar defylit, is this, that the spuilze of the pure is in zour housis, ze inuaid the possessioun of that quhilk appertenis not vnto zow, and that quhilk our foirbearis gaue of gude zeill to Goddis honour and the commoun welth of the Kirk, ze spuilze to zour awin priuate vsis without outher ryme or ressoun, nouther will ze be controllit. This, this, I say, is the cheif caus yt nathing prosperis in zour handis, gif thairfoir ze wald yt euer God suld decoir zow with that honour to be his instrumentis to clenge this land from the innocent blude quhairwith it is pollutit, and the fylthie murthereris quhairwith it is infamit and defylit: Clenge then zour handis of all impietie, specially of sacriledge quhairby ze spuilze the pure, the schuilis, the Tempilis, and Ministeris of Goddis word, zea, Christ him self. I grant that our Fatheris of Immoderat zeill (besyde the teindis & necessarie rentis of the Kirk) gaue thairunto superfluously, and mair nor aneuch, Quhat then is to be done? Bot that the Preicheris of Goddis word be ressonabillie sustenit, seing that thair is aneuch and ouer mekle to do it, the schuillis and the pure be weill prouydit as thay aucht, and the Tempilis honestly and reuerently repairit, that the pepill without iniurie of wynd or wedder may sit and heir Goddis word, and participat of his haly Sacrametis. And gif thair restis ony thing vnspendit quhen this is done (as na dout thair wil) in the name of God let it be bestowit on the nixt necessarie affairis of the

commoun welth, aud not to ony mannis priuate commoditie. Except ze do this God will not be with zow, nouther can ze haue any prosperitie, bot the end of a cummer salbe the beginning of ane vther, bot gif ze will be obedient to his voice he will be with zow, and blys all the warkis of zour handis, as he hes promysit in his worde, quhairof we sall haue better occasioun to speik in the third heid of our Text vnto the quhilk let vs now proceid: wearie not I pray zow, suppois the tyme be almaist spendit for I sall not be lang.

Bring ze all the teindis into the stoirhous, &c. Efter that the Prophet hes confutit vniust querrellingis and responsis of the pepill and also had prouit thame criminall, he schawis thame the remedie and how thay may recouer agane the benedictioun and fauour of God, to wit, gif thay will deill vprichtly with him in time cuming, qhairunto he maist ernestly exhortis thame, promysing (gif thay will amend the former faultis) Goddis blyssingis and fauour in all thingis. Bring ze (sayis he) all the teindis into the stoirhous, or treasure of the Tempill, he craifis all, that thay may knaw that he will haue nane fraudulently withdraw in as they wer befoir, quhen for the sassoun thay gaue a part, as thocht thay had bene zealous of Religioun, and retenit the rest to satisfie thair auaritious affectiouis. The caus quhy that the Lord commandis all the teindis faithfully to be geuin without ony fraud, he sayis, yt thair may be meit in his hous to sustene the Preistis and the Leuitis that waitit on his seruice, and that thair may be sufficient also for all vther thingis that he had appointit in his Law to be done, quhairof we haue spokin at lenth afoir. This is it that the Lord requyris of thir pepill, and exhortis thame to proue him heirwithall. Quhidder gif he will not oppin vnto them the wyndois of heuin, &c. Behald deir Brethren the bountifulnes & familiaritie of our God toward vs, yt this way subiectis his fidelitie to our tryall, binding him self be promeis to recompance and that largely, quhatsaeuer is bestowit on his seruice, thocht he be detter to no man, nor zit hes ony commoditie of our oblatiouis (as we haue said afoir) for nouther dwellis he in Tempilis maid with hadis, nor zit hes he ony neid that our gudis be spendit on him, bot all the externall worschipping is ordanit be him for the nurischement of our faith, quha be eirthlie thingis mon be taucht peice and peice to vnderstand heuinly thingis that thairunto be thame, we may led, as it wer, be the hand. For vs then, I say, is the externall exercise of Religioun, and all the expensis that is maid thairupon ordanit, and not for him, and zit notwithstanding in exhorting vs to be liberall in that quhilk cumis altogidder to our awin profite, he speiks als submissiuely as it were a borower making requeist to a lenner, that wald say, len me, I pray zow, sic a summe of money or samekle victuall to sic a day and proue my credite thairwith, quhidder gif I will not thankfully pay zow agane and yt with profite. O the meruellous and vnspeikabill cair that the Lord hes ouer vs and our Saluatioun.

Bot let vs heir with quhat benefitis he promysis to recompance thame gif thay will do thair dewtie. First, he promysis to oppin the windowis of heuin vnto them, he sayis not that he wil oppin a wyndow, bot in the plurall number wyndowis, signifying, that he will caus all thingis that thay haue neid of thairoutof to flow vnto thame in all aboundance. Secundly, that the blyssingis quhilk he will powre out of heuin vpon thame, sall produce and bring furth frute out of the eirth (not simplie to satisfie thair neid) bot mekle mair, zea, it salbe bezond measure. Thirdly, he promysis that not only sall the heuin and the eirth mutually aggre togidder, (as sayis ye Prophet Hosea) to produce all thingis aboundantly vnto thame, bot also quhen thay ar producit he sall preserue them from all thingis that may hynder thame from cumming to maturitie and perfectioun, quhidder it be noysum beastis or vnseasonabill wedder. Finally, he promysis sa to deill with thame that the prophane and godles Natiounis salbe compellit to acknawledge thame for a happy and a blyssit pepill, in quhome Goddis liberall blyssingis and benefitis sa sall abound, that the plesandnes, fertilitie & fruitfulnes of thair land sall allure all men to lufe it and to desyre to dwell in it.

Of this we note from quhence cummis aboundance of victuall, incres of frutis, & all vther prosperitie to man, certanely not from the

elementis abuve, nor from the earth beneth, nor zit from manis laubour, (for the heuinis as sayis Ieremie can giue na schouris, and then of force it mon follow that the earth salbe barrane & manis laubour loist) from nane of thir thingis then procedis manis happynes, bot from God only in quhais hand is the brydill yt moderatis all thingis, quha also (quhen man is obedient to him) makis all his creaturis to serue him, zea, the stanis of the field (as sayis Iob) to be in league with him, and the beistis of the feild to be at peace with him. And be the contrarie quhen men ar inobedient to God thay ar cursit in all that euer thay put thair hand vnto, and all the creaturis of God ar enemeis vnto thame, zea, the heuin geuis thame nouther dew nor raine, nor the earth ony frute mair nor thay wer maid of Iron and brasse. Let vs then brethren feir God, reuerence and worschip him as he hes commandit, and be zealous to maintene his honour with all our poweris and substance, and sa sal he prosper our interprysis to his glorie and our comfort, bot gif we be disobedient to him, cairles and nigligent of his honour, his plagues can not depart from vs, for he will honour thame that honour him, and powre contempt vpon thame yt lichtly him. Langer at this present, seing that the tyme faillis me I will not hald zow, bot beseikis zow all, and principallie zow maist Nobill and worthie Personages to prent thir thingis in zour myndis to zour profite, to suffer the wordis of exhortatiou patiently, and tak in gude worth yt quhilk is spokin, albeit it haue bene sumquhat rudely and schairply vtterit, considdering that it procedit from the hart of him that luifis and fauouris baith zow & zour caus, remembring the saying of Salomon, oppin rebuke is better then secreit lufe, and the woundis of a lufer mair faithfull then the kissis of ane enemie thocht thay be plesant. God grant that the wordis quhilk ze haue hard wit zour outward eiris may be sa fixit in zour hartis, yt the frute thairof may heir efter appeir to the glorie of God, and ye comoditie of his Kirk, quhilk he hes redemit to him self be ye precious blude of his only & weilbelouit Sone Iesus Christ our Lord and only Sauiour, to quhom with the father & the haly Gaist be perpetual praise, glorie, & honor baith now & for euer. Amen.

This Sermon was presentit to the Kirk, red & approuit be the persounis vnderwrittin, appointit thairunto be ye assemblie haldin at Perth 6. Augusti. Anno. 1572.

I. SANCTANDROIS.
IHONE ERSKYN.
M. IHONE WYNRAM.
Williame Crystesone M. of Dundie.
Iohn Knox with my dead hand but glaid heart praising God that of his mercy he leuis suche light to his Kirk in this desolatioun.

THE TERCENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

24th JUNE 1909

(Reprinted from the Church Magazine of July 1909).

The three hundredth anniversary of the passing of the Act of Parliament constituting St. Mary's the Parish Church of South Leith was celebrated on Thursday by the holding of a commemoration service in the Church, which was attended not only by the clergymen of daughter churches and other churches in Leith and elsewhere, but by the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Councillors, members of the Trinity House, Parish Council, School Board, and representatives from other local bodies and organisations. It was a notable assembly and an impressive service—a fitting tribute to the honourable history and beneficent influence of the grand old church.

The service was held at noon. Trinity House, which is exactly opposite the Kirkgate door of the church, was the muster place of the representatives of public bodies, who there formed into procession, and marching across the Kirkgate, filed into the church and took their seats in the north and south aisles, which were reserved for them. The procession was in this order :—

Presbytery and Ministers.
Town Council.
Trinity House.
School Board.
Parish Council.
Dock Commission.
Chamber of Commerce.
Leith High Constables.
Incorporation of Carters.
Freemasons.
Kirk Session.

The Town Council was represented by Provost Smith, Bailies Cochrane, Lindsay, and Hall, Judge M'Kelvie, Councillors Muirhead, Harvey, Lindsay, Dresner, and Reid, with Mr T. B. Laing, Town Clerk ; Chief Constable Macleod, and Messrs Osborne and Finlayson, Town Officers. Trinity House was represented by Captain Tait, Deputy Master ; Captains Charles Thompson, Cromarty, Telford, A. T. M. Waddell, Mr Stalker, clerk ; and Mr Shaw, officer. School Board—Rev. D. Kilpatrick (Chairman), Mrs Calder, Miss Miller, Rev. James M. Scott, Messrs Garden and Tait, with Mr Hardie (clerk). Parish Council—Messrs Taylor (Chairman), Miller, Gumley, Robb, Blackie, Peterkin, Howie, and Anderson, with Mr Miles (clerk). Dock Commission—Ex-Provost Mackie, ex-Treasurer W. Graham-Yooll, with Mr Peter Whyte (superintendent), and Mr Hood (collector). Chamber of Commerce—Mr M. C. Grant and Mr F. F. Reid (secretary). The Incorporation of Carters, who wore their colours, had twelve representatives present, including two office-bearers—Mr J. R. Maclaren, preses, and Mr Alex. Smith. The clergymen who were to assist the Rev. Mr White in the service occupied the elders' platform, and included the Very Rev. Dr Mitchell, the Very Rev. Dr J. Mitford Mitchell, Rev. Dr Fisher, Rev. James Park, Rev. J. R. Prenter, Rev. W. Burnett, Rev. J. A. Fleming, Rev. W. Marshall Low, Rev. J. R. Sabiston, Rev. George Jack, and Rev. W. Lindsay. Among others present were Rev. J. H. M'Culloch, Rev. Peter Wilson, Rev. Jas. Stevenson, Rev. D. G. Hamilton, Rev. William White, B.D. (Crosshouse), Rev. D. Reid, Rev. R. A. Reid, Rev. Dr Glasse, Sir John M. Clark, Bart., Rev. John A. Swan and Rev. C. J. Donaldson, Dr Garland, Mr Herd, Mr Thomas Hutchison, Mr J. B. Meiklejohn, Mr James Roger, Mr James Bruce, S.S.C., Mr J. M. Johnston, Mr Asher, S.S.C., and Mr D. Robertson, S.S.C., Session Clerk.

The service was started promptly by the congregation singing the doxology "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow." The Rev. Mr

White, who occupied the pulpit, then made an intimation regarding the tercentenary communion to be held on Sunday, and in connection with which a special token has been struck. The Rev. James A. Fleming, of St. Thomas' Parish Church, the oldest daughter of South Leith, then gave out Hymn 309—"O God, our help in ages past," and after it had been sung the Moderator of the Presbytery offered up prayer, which was followed by the Rev. James Park, of St John's Parish Church (the second daughter of South Leith) reading the Old Testament lesson from 1 Chronicles xvi. 7-36. The 262nd Hymn, intimated by the Rev. Mr Sabiston, of the Abbey Parish Church (which is the third daughter), was next sung, and the Rev. J. R. Prenter, of St Paul's Parish Church (the fourth daughter of South Leith) read the New Testament lesson from Hebrews xi. 23—xii. 4 The Rev. W. Burnett, a former assistant in South Leith and now minister at Restalrig Chapel, gave out the "Te Deum," and the singing of this hymn was followed by the Very Rev. Dr Mitchell, Minister Emeritus of South Leith, offering up a special prayer of thanksgiving and intercession. The Rev. George Jack, Minister at St. Mungo's Chapel, gave out Psalm 102 (2nd version) 13-18 *Tune, Duke Street.*

THE SERMON.

The Minister of the Church (the Rev. John White, M.A.) then delivered the sermon. He said:—

At the first General Assembly of the Reformed Kirk of Scotland, 20th December 1560, it was found reasonable and expedient that the parishioners of Restalrig should repair to the Kirk of Leith, and that the Kirk of Restalrig should be razed and utterly destroyed as a monument of idolatry. Fifty years thereafter, 24th June 1609, this Kirk of Leith, then called St. Mary's, was constituted by Act of Parliament the Parish Church in place of the ruined Restalrig.

It is befitting that this Tercentenary year of a church that has bulked so largely in the annals of the town of Leith, that has played its little side part in the history of the nation, that has been a place of worship for Kings and Queens, that has been the Assembly-room of a Convention that seriously influenced the history of the Church for generations, and that still possesses the subtle fascination of holding the affections of all who, at any time, have been associated with it, should be specially signalised.

"Think of your forefathers! Think of your posterity!" To-day we think reverently of the former that we may think sensibly of the latter. It is divinely wise to talk with the past years; to listen to the echoes that survive when the voices of the past are hushed; to go back through the centuries, and step by step, to "see the steady gain of man," and

> "That all of good the past hath had
> Remains to make our own time glad."

A rapid survey of former times impresses one or two great truths on the mind.

(*a*) The records of this Church for four hundred years enable us, by the side-lights cast on the politics of Church and State, to see how in pre-reformation times, in the struggles of the Lords of the Congregation, in the Stuart and Commonwealth periods, as well as thereafter, the history of the nation is closely intertwined with the history of the Church. Religion and patriotism are not two but one: "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." The Cross of St. Andrew has its best background in the Cross of Christ. It was the preachers of the latter that were the guardians of Scottish freedom; they paid the price of liberty which is eternal vigilance; "what the Nobles and Crown had put in peril that did the clergy save." It is David Lindsay of South Leith, who, in this church, exhorts the King to be mindful of his promises to distribute impartial justice; it is John Durie, at one time his colleague, who, in defence of the liberties of the people, inveighs against the Court from the pulpit of St Giles, and is imprisoned; and reflects on the Duke of Lennox and others, and is removed from the city: But the time would fail to tell of others. Long may the nation recognise the religion of Christ as her true refuge and strength, and the guardian of her liberties.

(*b*) The past centuries speak to us of the continuity of the Church. It is as a place

where for generations men have sought the Lord and carried their sorrows and needs, that this Church derives its chief and sacred interest. Whether it be the priest offering the Holy Sacrifice at the altar of St. Peter, the apostle, in the New Church of 1490; whether it be the celebration of High Mass, as the bullets from the guns of the Reformers pass through the great window in the East; whether it be George Wishart, that "blissed martyr of God," preaching on the Sower, that went forth to sow seed; whether it be David Lindsay, the Protestant Bishop of Ross and Minister of Leith; or John Moray and Alexander Gibsone and Principal Wishart, determined Presbyterians; or William Wishart and William Morton, Anti-Covenanters; or Bishop Andrew Cant, Militant Royalist; or Dr Grant, Churchman; or David Thorburn, Free Churchman; whether it be the simple ritual of the present or the ornate ritual of the past, it is ever the one Lord, the one faith, the one baptism that is set before the people, as the satisfaction of needs that are the same in the human breast yesterday, to-day, and for ever.

From such a glance backwards is there no suggestion of that which binds all churches in one? Is there nothing in all this to prompt the prayer that all may be one? If by going wrong all things come right then are we near a better time; and from these "old, unhappy far-off things, and battles long ago," we shall reach a happy stage of peace, when, if we must strive, it shall be with "commutual zeal" in acts of dear benevolence and love; "brothers in peace, not rivals in command." There are many to-day who hear the low sweet prelude of this coming harmony:

> "Through clouds of doubt and creeds of fear
> A light is breaking."

(*c*) Our chief word to-day is one of thanks: thanks to Him who hath compassed the paths of our pilgrimage. Erected when Luther was born, when Leonardo da Vinci was painting the Last Supper, thirteen years before Calvin saw the Light of day, one hundred years before the University of Edinburgh was founded, God has kept in the midst of His people this token of His presence and of His blessing. From the architect who designed it, and built his mind into these stones, to the children of the generations that followed, God has put it into the hearts of His worshippers to give good gifts for the beautifying of His House, and, as we look on the labour and wrought substance of it all, we say, "See this our fathers did for us." Feebly striving after the beauty of holiness we worship God surrounded by the sanctity of beauty. On the coming Lord's day we shall take the opportunity presented by the great eucharistic rite of communion—the central thought of which is thanksgiving for the great gift and blessing of God in Christ, by Whom all other blessings of the past are hallowed, and all future days are brightened with a living Hope—to offer our sacrifices of praise and gratitude.

To-day we remember that "what's past is prologue." The problems of the past lead up to, though they differ from the problems of to-day; differing in form—no longer theological but sociological—at heart they are the same; the problems of life, enriched and deepened by faith in God, and of society uplifted and beautified by the common worship of His Christ. And the best Tercentenary offering of gratitude that the Church (I speak of the Church in its wider sense, as including the daughter Churches of South Leith and those co-operating Churches that have so kindly come for an hour under the old roof-tree), could make would be to engage more unitedly, and more earnestly than ever, in a forward movement to stem the forces that make for unrighteousness around us, to bring the power of the Gospel of Christ—the solution of all life's enigmas and of society's problems—to bear on the many who are living under the shadow of our churches' walls, yet outside of all religious influence, until they "see their Saviour plain," to show them that the Church is full of sympathy with them in all that concerns the life that now is, as well as the life that is to come, and thereby build up a glorious church, a spiritual edifice, to the honour of our Lord and King.

> "Henceforth my heart shall sigh no more
> For olden time and holier shore;
> God's love and blessing, then and there,
> Are now and here and everywhere."

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us; unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end.—AMEN.

At the close of the sermon Paraphrase ii. was intimated by the Rev. William Lindsay, M.A., St. John's, Hawick, formerly Assistant in South Leith.

PROVOST SMITH.

Provost Smith, in intimating the offering, said—I am requested to intimate that the offering will now be received. In doing so I would take the opportunity, as representing the lay element of the community, of saying that while our service to-day is commemorative of the fact that for 300 years this building has been dedicated to divine worship according to the reformed opinions of the times, it is at the same time commemorative of much more. No one can glance back over the checkered, the eventful and oft times stormy, course of these centuries without being impressed at the way in which we have been guided, not only as a church, but as a community and as a nation, and it behoves us at all times, and especially on such an occasion as the present, to thankfully acknowledge our indebtedness to the Divine Leader for all the blessings we have received. I have also, on behalf of the Kirk Session, to thank all the representatives of public bodies and others for their presence here to-day, and for thereby assisting the Minister and Kirk Session in carrying through successfully an event which may be regarded as marking an epoch in the history of the town.

While the offering was being taken the choir, under Mr Charles Bradley, rendered the anthem "O clap your hands." After the congregation had joined in singing the 122nd Psalm (intimated by the Rev. W. Marshall Low, M.A.), the benediction was pronounced by the Very Rev. Dr J. Mitford Mitchell. "God Save the King" (Mr White's version) was then sung, and as Mendelssohn's "Cornelius March" was being played the congregation dispersed.

THE LUNCHEON.

Following the service in the church came a luncheon in the Queen's Hotel, at which there was present a representative company of about 130, including a fair number of ladies. The Rev. John White, M.A., occupied the chair, and the croupiers were Mr Wm. Asher, Bailie Lindsay, Mr John Cran, Councillor Lindsay, and Mr James W. Thorburn. The chairman was supported by the Very Rev. Dr Mitchell, Sheriff Johnston, Provost Smith, Rev. Dr Fisher, Mr J. Crabbe Watt, K.C., Sir John M. Clark, Bart., Sir Colin Macrae, ex-Provost Mackie, Rev. D. Kilpatrick, Rev. James Park, Rev. J. H. M'Culloch, Rev. Peter Wilson, Mr J. B. Sutherland, S.S.C., Captain Tait, Mr J. M. Johnston, Mrs White, Mrs Smith, Mrs Mackie. Among others present were Rev. James A. Fleming, Rev. J. R. Sabiston, Rev. J. R. Prenter, Rev. Wm. Burnett, Rev. George Jack, Mr James Miles, Mr Robert Hardie, Councillor Harvey, ex-Treasurer Graham-Yooll, Councillor Lindsay, Edinburgh and Mr Meiklejohn, Shettleston.

"THE KING."

The Chairman, in giving the toast of "The King," said that in former ages the Kings of Scotland used to worship in South Leith. James III. made a contribution to it; James IV. gave it a charter; Mary of Guise, Queen-Regent, with her nobility, worshipped within its walls; James VI. had a special "laft"; the minister of South Leith married King James, baptised his children, especially Charles I., and in 1633 "ane new pulpit" was put into the church because of his coming. Now, no doubt in the generations that had followed they had not been honoured by worshipping Kings and Queens, but the citizens of Leith were loyal to King Edward, and they rose to drink his health.

"The Queen and other members of the Royal Family" were also honoured on the call of the Chairman.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Mr T. M. Pole then intimated apologies for absence from Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Lord Salvesen, Sir John Ure Primrose, the Very Rev.

Dr Mitford Mitchell, Rev. David Robb, Mr Victor A. Noel Paton, Mr Peter Whyte, ex-Bailie Mackenzie, Mr Wm. Taylor, Mr T. B. Laing, ex-Provost Aitken, Mr Alfred M'Intosh, Rev. George T. Jamieson, Bailie Craig, Dr M'Creadie, and others.

"Imperial Forces."

Councillor Lindsay submitted this toast. Having touched on the first two branches of the service, Councillor Lindsay declared that the Territorial Army is one of the best assets the nation possesses. He advised the young men of the present day to do their duty faithfully and well. (Applause.)

Colonel Sir John M. Clark, Bart., responded to the toast. He read in the Chronicle of the church that in 1650 the ministers and most part of the honest people left for fear of the enemy. (Laughter.) He thought they would find things in a different position to-day. If ever we were unfortunate to have the enemy at our gates, the local Battalion were ready to spend the last drop of their blood in the defence of the town. (Applause.)

"The Church of Scotland."

Mr J. Crabbe Watt, K.C., proposed the toast of "The Church of Scotland." She wears many crowns, he said, a variety of sparkling diadems the lustre of which has irradiated every path and every track of human life. In saying that he thought he summed up the quality with respect to which he asked them to celebrate the Church of Scotland; for there is not a walk in life in which these diadems have not shone, have not illumined, have not lightened the path, have not lit up the path which her sons ought always to tread. He noticed there had been a remark made by a high authority that there were creeds which were not sometimes believed. He did not like that, because, whether or not there were things in the creed which they had espoused which they would rather not have — as, for instance, effectual calling, and eternal punishment, and the like—yet he defied any man, however highly placed he might be, to point him to a system of theology or a creed which in the course of these 300 years has reared a finer, better, more self-respecting, more God-fearing race of men than the Scotsmen who have thriven upon Calvinism. (Applause.)

Rev. Dr R. H. Fisher, Moderator of the Presbytery, said that anyone replying to the toast of the Church of Scotland could do it without diffidence and could accept without reluctance even such a splendidly eloquent tribute as that which had just been offered to the Church by Mr Crabbe Watt; for the Church of Scotland is in a good way. (Applause.) Of course she is a big institution with 706,000 members, and inevitably there will be defects here and there. But the Church as a whole is well, alert, aggressive, in touch with lay opinion, and in his humble judgment not really needing to have her health drunk or any other therapeutic method taken. (Applause.) Then as one looks to the future one hears much of proposals of great improvement in the ecclesiastical condition of the country. God knows it needs it! But he trusted they would all work for one thing, namely this: that what has been the best element in the national Church of Scotland will be preserved. (Applause.) He did not refer to anything which could be effected by political machinations or by negotiations between the Churches; he meant the type of Scottish character which has been distinctively trained in the Auld Kirk. (Hear, hear.) The parish minister has been a fine type, with his simple dignity and his manliness, a man not much obsessed probably with difficulties of Biblical criticism, but the trusted confidant of the whole countryside—he would be sorry to see him go. And our Scottish men and women trained in the national church have been a fine type of piety too, not saying much about their religion, with a piety not sentimental or mystical, but very liberally-minded, tolerant in judgment, generous in heart, and kind and genial as the day—he would be sorry to see that type lost from our Scottish religious life, whatever changes are awaiting us in the future. About external things he fancied there is room for adjustment, and adjustment

will come. Now that the United Free Church seems to stand for the national recognition of religion as stoutly as they, and they stood as stoutly as the United Free for spiritual independence, the time may be nearer than some pessimists fancy when the present ecclesiastical condition of Scotland will be entirely changed, and the man whose duty it is to reply for the toast of the Church of Scotland will speak not only for the old mother but for all the scattered children brought back again to the common home. (Applause.)

"South Leith Church."

Sheriff Christopher N. Johnston, K.C., Procurator of the Church of Scotland, gave the toast of the day—"South Leith Church." He went back to the rise of the church out of the church of Restalrig, and pointed out that they were associated with one of the most venerable institutions in the land. In the year 1477 King James III. founded at Restalrig a collegiate church. It was very amply staffed, having a dean, eight prebendaries, and two choir-boys. About the same time we find the Church of St Mary in Leith; he thought the earliest reference to it was in 1483. What the history of that church was between that date and 1560 we do not very well know. There is clear evidence that it continued to exist and that there was constant worship there. In 1560 the first General Assembly turned its attention to this corner of Scotland, and it pronounced an order that the Church of Restalrig be razed as being a monument of idolatry, and that the people of the parish should repair to the Church of St Mary at Leith. He did not quite know why the members of that Assembly regarded Restalrig as the St Cuthbert's of that day. (Laughter.) Restalrig Church became a ruin, but it was one thing to raze a church and another thing to transport it. An Act of Parliament was necessary, and accordingly in 1609 an Act of Parliament, the tercentenary of which they celebrated that day, was then passed. At that time the parish of Leith had a very distinguished minister, David Lindsay, one of the greatest ecclesiasts in a great ecclesiastical age. Leith has had many distinguished ministers, but he did not think their distinction has generally leant in the direction of letters. He did not think that Literature has been greatly enriched by the labours of the ministers of Leith, but there was one exception—Logan, in the eighteenth century. Logan is the author of some of our Paraphrases, and he is also the reputed or disputed author of some striking poems. Curiously enough, he is the only one who seems to have left the church under a cloud. In recent years the church has been as well served as ever it was. (Applause.) They had there that day two who in succession filled the church, and some of the older ones amongst them remembered the tradition of others who in the last century were distinguished ministers in Leith, such as Professor Stevenson, Dr Grant. Dr Thorburn, and others, and they believed that in the future that tradition will be preserved as honourably as it has been in the past. (Applause.) The church was associated with the early beginnings of Leith. It has been associated with its rise and progress as a commercial town, and it has always enjoyed a very great measure of support amongst all sections of the community in Leith. He was quite sure that the Protestant community of Leith regard the ancient Church of South Leith not only with kindly feelings, but with reverence and affection. She is the mother of them all—*quoad sacra*, mission churches, United Frees, and other Frees—she is the mother, and he did not think they had any reason to be ashamed of their parentage. (Applause.) Generations come and go. Ten generations have passed away since the event they that day celebrated, but the church remains, hoary with age, but still in all the freshness and energy of youth, a perpetual witness in this great commercial community to the truth that "man does not live by bread alone." (Applause.) They honoured the church that day as a glorious memory of the past, a living power of the present, and an inspiring hope for the future. (Applause.)

The Chairman, in replying to the toast,

assured them that it was not easy to summarise three centuries of what was in some places sensational history, and at all times a crowded history, but he congratulated the Procurator of the Church on having given them that day one of the most interesting resumes of the period. They were all proud of the old mother church; they were proud of its historical associations. It links the past and the present in an organic whole of communal life as does no other building or institution in Leith. And if at times the old church has been a prison, and if at times an arsenal, and if at times a stable, and if at times a death-chamber (as it was to Maitland of Lethington) still, as Sheriff Johnston said, the people of Leith are proud of the old building. They rejoiced in the ancient stones, and in the past ages they had been always ready to reconsecrate it by most tasteful restorations and by beautiful gifts of windows and sacred vessels and other ornaments. He was pleased to think that the day of such offerings is not over, and considering also the great and the growing need of our churches in Leith he trusted that the day of their cessation would be very far distant indeed. Continuing, Mr White said—There are many interesting foot-notes to history supplied by the ministers of South Leith. In 1572 I can see six of the most important members of the Privy Council coming down to Leith to hold a Convention along with six ministers of the Church of Scotland, one of whom was the minister of South Leith; and in the old church they drew up a convention, a concordat between Church and State, for appointing Protestant Bishops. That concordat of Leith, famous as it was, became the great discordancy of the ensuing century. In 1600 I see a great congregation in South Leith, and amongst the worshippers King James VI. They have met to give thanks to God for his escape from the Gowrie Conspiracy—so-called a conspiracy. The minister of South Leith, the great David Lindsay, took the opportunity of reminding the King of his promise to distribute impartial justice, and he exhorted him, I have no doubt, eloquently, to fulfil the same, but we read that the King smiled and spoke to those around him in his irreverent manner while hearing sermon. (Laughter.) In 1643 I see another great congregation in South Leith. It is evidently a day of great moment; it is the signing of the Covenant. I see James Sharp of the first charge and Alexander Gibsone of the second: they read the Covenant. Great preparation has been made for that day by fasting. The people stand to their feet, and with uplifted hand they swear to the Solemn Covenant. And the last picture that I draw is in 1692. I see another great concourse of South Leithers, this time not in the church but in the graveyard. Something important is about to happen; the Magistrates of Edinburgh and of Leith are about to visit South Leith, not peacefully as they do now, but they are coming at the dictate of the Presbytery in order to expel Mr Kay, the Episcopal incumbent, and instal—or rather guard the Presbytery with their guard of halberts while they instal—the Presbyterian William Wishart, who occupied the chair of the Assembly on five separate occasions and was afterwards appointed Principal of the University. (Applause.) These are a few extracts in supplement of what has been said to-day—a few extracts from the records of the Kirk-Session of South Leith. Yesterday, as Carlyle says, is not to-day, and we in the present are seeking to do the duty of to-day, and we shall not do it less faithfully and less diligently if we remember that we are the heirs of a great past whose page is not a blank but inscribed by much heroism on behalf of civil liberty and of religious freedom and of progress. (Applause.) Before concluding, Mr White expressed thanks to the Presbytery of Edinburgh for their patronage, to the ministers of the daughter churches and the ministers of Leith generally, and to the members of the various public bodies.

"Daughter Churches."

In proposing this toast the Very Rev. Dr Mitchell fell into a reminiscent mood, and depicted the troublous period of the church's history at the time he was appointed minister. His intercourse with South Leith from that day to this had been one of uninter-

rupted enjoyment. He had difficulties and trials at various times, but he had never any worry, and no congregation could have been more loyal, and no minister and congregation could have proved so loyal to each other as they proved for years. After many other reminiscences connected with the church, Dr Mitchell went on to speak of the daughter churches and of the success which they had experienced. Taking the daughter churches in chronological order, he briefly referred to them, to their history, success, and ministers, a kindly reference being made to each. With regard to Mr Park, who was to reply to the toast, he said there were no adventitious attractions about St. John's, no self-advertising, only steady, conscientious work. From the first time he knew Mr Park the church had gone on increasing steadily in prosperity. That led him to say that all the other daughter churches had done excellently, but he thought St. John's excelled them all. (Applause.)

Rev. Mr Park, in responding, at the outset offered the hearty congratulations of the daughter churches to their mother church, South Leith. They had entered very fully and heartily into the celebration of that important event in the history of South Leith, and they rejoiced that she could look back upon so honourable a history. If she had met with scars in her conflicts in the past, they had but added greater lustre and softer lines to the old mother's face. South Leith was never more active than at the present time. She was facing the many problems, social and religious, that always faced a living church, with heart and with determination. South Leith was fortunate that she was under the tried leadership and wisdom and skill of its present minister. (Applause.) He (Mr Park) had not the pleasure of knowing Mr White previous to his translation to South Leith, but since Mr White had come to Leith he had learned to love him, and admired his qualities. He was the very best of neighbours, most helpful to a brother minister, entering as sympathetically into his work and welfare almost as he did into his own. (Applause.)

"The Town Council."

Rev. J. H. M'Culloch proposed "The Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council." Regarding the Magistrates and Town Councillors he did not know that there was in Scotland a burgh that was better managed in all respects than the burgh of Leith. They were all anxious to do their duty and to see that the burgh was worthy of the high position to which in recent years it had attained. (Applause.)

Provost Smith, acknowledging the toast, expressed the pleasure he had in knowing that he had in some small measure given satisfaction. (Applause.) His colleagues were a most loyal body. They did not always agree, but all were imbued with a desire for the weal of the community. Having commented appropriately on the great event they were celebrating, he reminded them of the civil functions which the church in olden times had exercised.

"The Guests."

Bailie Lindsay gave the toast of "The Guests." They had with them that day representatives of law, the Church, commerce, and of other interests throughout the community, and on behalf of the Church, Mr White, and the community, he thanked them for their presence.

The Rev. Mr Kilpatrick, in responding, warmly congratulated the minister and congregation of South Leith on that important day. Having referred to the valuable part the Church had played in educational progress in past days, he said Scotland owed practically everything in the matter of education to the Scottish Church. The ministers of the non-established Churches in the burgh joined as heartily as anybody in congratulating South Leith Church, and were glad to have the stimulus and help that had come from the splendid history of that Church and from the throbbing and earnest life of the congregation of the present day. There was no place that he knew where there was greater unity between the various denominations than there was in Leith. There was

absolutely no friction whatever. Long might that continue! They were looking forward to a larger union, and the day might come when they would be celebrating that union. He trusted they might all live to see it. Might God bring it very speedily in His own time. (Applause.)

The Croupiers.

Ex-Provost Mackie next gave "The Croupiers." He expressed the pleasure he had had in being with them that day from start to finish, and congratulated them on the success which had marked the interesting proceedings.

Mr Asher, S.S.C., briefly responded.

The Chairman.

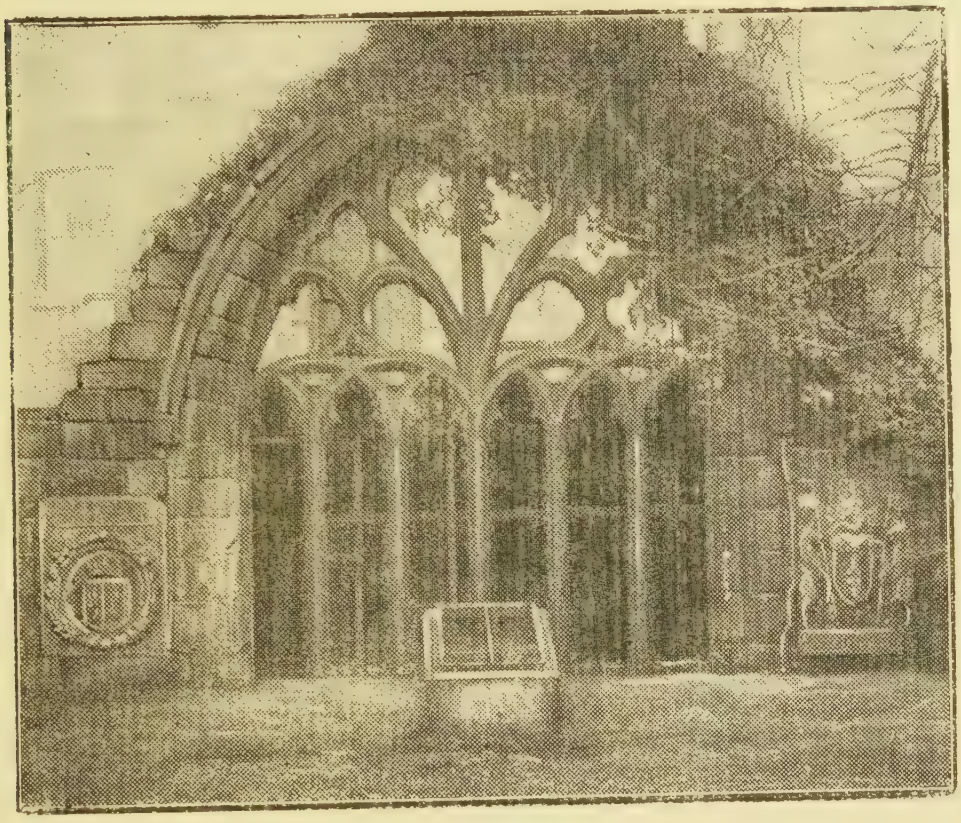
Mr John Morgan, M.A., in proposing the health of the Chairman, spoke of the prosperity of all the organisations, and in doing so paid a high tribute to the great intellectual gifts, the pulpit ministrations, the administrative powers of their minister, Mr White. (Applause).

The Chairman, in replying, said that Dr Mitchell had reminded them that when he came to Leith in 1864 it was much against his will. It was strange how history repeated itself. South Leith was about the last place in Scotland he (Mr White) ever thought he would be in, but as Dr Mitchell became very fond of South Leith and found most loyal support, so history again repeated itself, for he (Mr White) thought there was no more likeable people than in South Leith, and among the first of the loyal supporters he placed the gentleman who had proposed the toast. (Applause). He would like to say how much they had been indebted, how much he personally had been indebted, in carrying out all the arrangements, to his Session Clerk, Mr Robertson, and in connection with that banquet, to Mr Pole, who had had the burden of the arrangements. (Applause).

This brought the proceedings to a close, and after singing "Auld Lang Syne," the company dispersed.

COMMUNION SERVICES.

In connection with the Tercentenary of South Leith Parish Church, special Communion Services were held on Sunday, 27th June. The Rev. John White officiated at the forenoon tables; and at the afternoon tables was assisted by the ministers of daughter churches of South Leith. There were 2500 communicants, each of whom received a special communion token which had been struck in commemoration of the Tercentenary. Altogether no fewer than 3600 persons attended the different services. At a special thanksgiving service in the evening the Rev. A. M. Maclean, Peebles, preached the sermon, and referred to the importance of the occasion in the history of the parish and of the Church.



THE ANCIENT WEST WINDOW

(Reprinted from the Church Magazine of March 1911).

Much interest has been taken in the purchase of the old west window of the church of South Leith, and in its removal to a parish in the Loch Awe district of Argyleshire, where it is to be built into a church in connection with the Church of Scotland. It will be remembered that until a few days ago it stood in the garden of the house, 43 Albany Street.

The window in question has often been examined, and there seems no reason to doubt that it formed part of the original fabric of St. Mary's Chapel, built in 1483. It will be remembered that in the wars of 1560 the English cannon firing from Lady Fyfe's Brae and the Giant's Brae "shot down some part of the east end of the Kirk of Leith," as our chronicle records. The parts of the chapel destroyed in these assaults were the choir and the transepts, probably as large an area as the nave, which escaped serious injury. At the Reformation the debris of the ruined parts were removed, a screen wall was built at the east end, and the nave then became the church, in size and outline exactly the same as it stands at the present time. Minor alterations were made from time to time, and in particular a little tower or steeple was added in 1674, but for the most part the church throughout the

changes and vicissitudes of almost three centuries remained in the state it had assumed at the Reformation.

Early in the nineteenth century the west end of the church began to show alarming signs of decay, and in 1836 it was found necessary to take it down, the steeple being then twenty-four inches from the perpendicular. From this date onward extensive alterations were made, until in 1848 the church became complete in its present state.

No attempt seems to have been made to preserve the many relics which had gathered in the old building during its long and varied career, and these were either destroyed or passed into private hands, with the result that in the course of a few years they became lost to sight. It happened that Dr Robertson, one of the few antiquaries of Leith, was then a member of the congregation, and he eagerly took possession of a large number of articles, some of which he has described in his book, "The Sculptured Stones of Leith." As the west window was taken down he had it removed to the garden of his house in Albany Street, and rebuilt stone by stone, and there it has remained for about seventy years. Upon being removed in the middle of last month it was found that the window had been hewn from splendid weathering stones by thoroughly capable workmen, the arches were finely chiselled, and the whole structure was in a splendid state of preservation. The architecture of the window belongs to the period of the decorated Gothic, and the design is obviously a very beautiful one. This must have been appreciated in 1848, for the existing west window is in all respects a reproduction of the original window.

On either side there were carved panels, which Dr. Robertson had built in with the window. The left hand panel bears the arms of Mary of Lorraine with the inscription—"Maria de Loraine regina Scotie, 1560." The right hand panel bears the motto, "In Defens," with the date 1560 and the initials "M.R." The arms are the royal arms of Scotland, and the initials those of Mary, Queen of Scots.

It may be added that the purchaser of the window and of the panels has acted in a very considerate and generous manner. When it was brought to his notice that an endeavour was being made by the minister and session clerk to gather together some of the interesting relics of the past, he at once granted an interview to the minister and Provost Smith, a member of the Kirk Session; and he has now agreed to hand over the panels and coat-of-arms, which it is hoped will find a place in South Leith Church as a memorial of our tercentenary. With this auspicious beginning it may not be vain to hope that many antiquities will gradually return to South Leith Church, which is now the oldest and probably the only historic building remaining in the town.

With regard to the window, the purchaser has shown no less consideration for the sentiment of South Leith. He has given a written document (transcribed in our Minute Book) to the effect that, if in the future there should be any restoration of South Leith Church, and possibly the erection of a chancel, the window will be restored on condition that a window of similar design be substituted in the church to which it has been presently removed.

The community is deeply indebted to the purchaser of the window and the panels (who desires to remain anonymous) for his kindly consideration, his courtesy, and his generous gift.

THE ROYAL ARMS

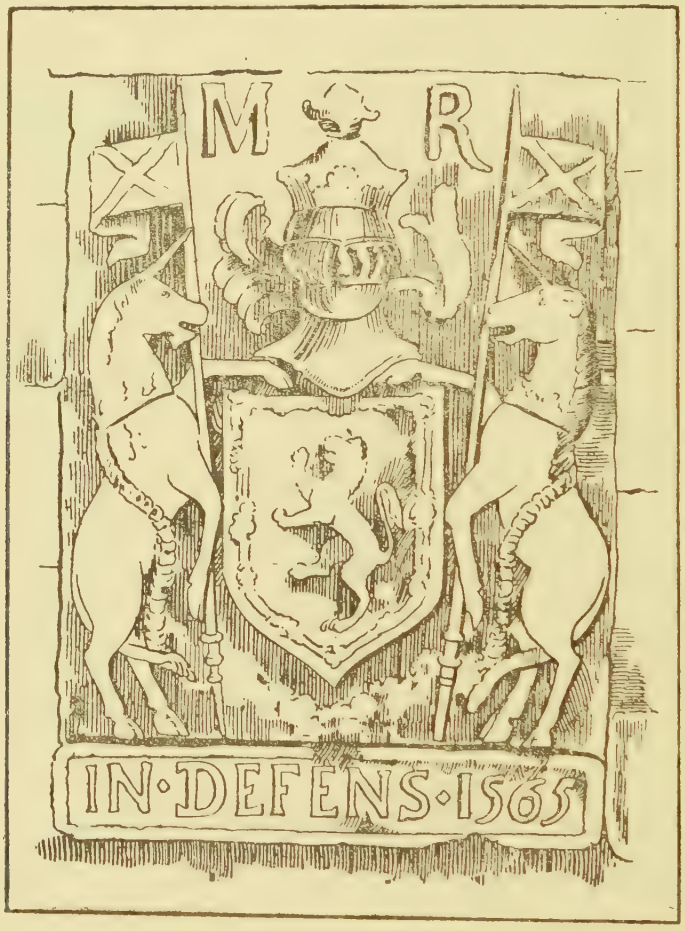
(Reprinted from the Church Magazine of April 1911).

In this month's Magazine we reproduce illustrations of the two carved stone panels recently presented to the Church,—the one showing the armorial bearings of Queen Mary of Lorraine, the other the armorial bearings of Mary Queen of Scots.

The former of these bears the inscription "Maria de Loraine Regina Scotie 1560," and shows the arms of the House of Guise, quartered with those of Scotland. According to Maitland, "Mary of Loraine having chosen Leith for her residence erected a house at the corner of Quality Wynd, in Rotten Row (now Water Lane), but the same being taken down and rebuilt, the Scottish Arms, which were in front thereof, are erected in the wall of a house opposite thereto on the southern side." Another writer referring to the incessant wars during Queen Mary's regency states, "like as a small bird being pursued will provide some nest, so her

Grace could do no less in case of pursuit but provide some sure retreat for herself and her company, and to that end chose the town of Leith, because it was her dearest daughter's property, and no other person could claim title or entrance thereto, and also because some time before it had been fortified."

According to tradition the Queen Regent had her first Leith residence in Queen Street, and in 1560 erected a new mansion for herself in the Water Lane. The site is now occupied by tenement property on which there is an inscription, "Mary of Guise's Buildings."



The other illustration shows the royal arms of Scotland with the initials of Mary Queen of Scots, and the motto, "In Defens 1565." This stone originally stood in front of the old Tolbooth, from which the Tolbooth Wynd derives its name. Queen Mary in 1565 issued to the Provost, Bailies, and Councillors of Edinburgh, an order in these terms:—"We charge you that ye permit our inhabitants of our town of Leith to big and edify our house of justice within our said town of Leith, and make no stop nor impediment to them to do the same, for it is our will that the same be biggit, and that ye desist from further molesting of them in all time coming as ye will answer to us therefor." The Tolbooth was accordingly built and completed about the year 1565. Among the persons who were confined there was Maitland of Lethington, who either committed suicide or was done to death by his warders.

These two stones, after being taken down, were preserved at the instance of Provost Reoch, a member of South Leith Church, at first in a house behind the new Tolbooth, later in a warehouse in Bernard Street. In 1844 they were accidentally discovered by Dr Robertson at the very moment they were under the mason's hammer to be broken up to furnish material for building a partition wall of a cellar. They were by Dr Robertson rebuilt into the original window of St. Mary's Church in his garden in Albany Street, from whence they have been recently removed as stated in last month's Magazine.

These two stones have now been built into the porch of the Church, where they will be preserved in safety for the future, and will be easily accessible to the citizens of Leith. The tower is already adorned with two royal coats of arms, on the north wall by the arms of King James VI., and on the west wall, above the entrance, by the arms of King Charles. The new additions will thus give us a series of four original and consecutive royal arms, which will give our tower a unique interest, probably not to be found in any other church in Scotland.

SOUTH LEITH RELICS

(Reprinted from the Church Magazine of June 1911).

Progress is being made in restoring to the Church some of the relics with which it was adorned in olden days. The people of Calton (or Craigend, as it was styled) had sittings at the west end of the north aisle, and the Craigend beam was formerly a conspicuous reminder of their rights within the old building. This beam is preserved in the Edinburgh Museum of Antiquities, but the Kirk Session have had a replica made and placed as nearly as possible in the position which the original beam occupied for about 200 years.

The Incorporation of Hammermen also sat in the north aisle at the east end thereof, and a cast of their arms, taken from a tombstone in the churchyard, has been erected to mark the place where, for centuries, the Hammermen sat, until within comparatively recent times their incorporation was disbanded.

In the south aisle various crafts of the town had sittings, including that of the Tailors, whose arms, removed from the Church at the Restoration in 1846, are now within the town's museum. An endeavour was made to recover these arms, but unfortunately this did not succeed. A cast has, however, been prepared and erected near to the place where the original arms were displayed.

The Kirk Session are making every endeavour to have the new front or screen to the organ gallery completed and erected in time for the Coronation Service on Thursday 22nd inst. This graceful memorial of our Tercentenary displays the arms of Leith in the middle panel; on the south panels are displayed the seal of Restalrig Church and the arms of the Logan family, the reputed founders of the church, with the date 1609 and the initials of the minister of that year, the Rev. David Lindsay. The panels on the north side display the arms of the City of Edinburgh and of the Balmerino family, patrons of the church, with the date 1909 and the initials of the Rev. John White, minister of that year. This screen is the gift of Mr William Tulloch. The work has been executed by Mr J. M. Johnston, architect, the contractors being Messrs Thomas Millar & Co.

THE CHRONICLE OF SOUTH LEITH CHURCH.

1483.—About this date the Church was built, and called by the name of Saint Mary's Chapel. It formed a subordinate Chapel to Restalrig, which continued to be the Church of the Parish until 1609. The Founders of Saint Mary's Chapel are not now known.

1487.—King James III made a contribution to the Church, "Item to the new Kyrk of Leith to our Ladie xviijs."

1490.—King James IV by a Crown Charter confirmed a grant made by Peter Falconer in Leith "for the soul's weal of James III, Queen Margaret, James IV, Robert Logan Baron of Restalrig, etc granted to the chaplain and his successors that shall offer the Holy Sacrifice at the Altar of St Peter Apostle in the new church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Leith on the south side thereof." Similar grants were conferred on the chaplains of St Bartholomew's and St Barbries' Altars.

1544.—The English under Hereford invaded Leith and burnt the town and also the chapel of St Mary's.

1545.—George Wishart, "that blissed Martyrr of God," was visited in Leith by John Knox. "If ye dar to hear me I will dar to preach." He preached in Leith his last recorded sermon, "xv days befoir Yuill and tuik the text the parable of the Sower that went furth to saw sead, Mathae 13."

1547.—Hertford, Duke of Somerset, again invaded Scotland. He converted St Mary's Chapel into a prison, in which he warded the Earl of Huntly and other Scottish nobles.

1557.—Knox, Harlaw, and Willox preached the reformed faith in Leith.

1559.—The Lords of the Congregation besieged Leith, which had been fortified by the French. Mary of Guise, the Queen Regent, made Leith her headquarters in her struggles against the Reformers.

1560.—The Queen Regent "expelling the antient inhabitants of Leith and placing there a new colony she would in that place build a castle." This castle was built in the Water Lane, and the royal arms originally built therein are now within the tower of South Leith Church. During her residence in Leith the Queen Regent with her nobility and court worshipped in St Mary's chapel.

1560.—An English army came to the assistance of the Lords of the Congregation, and encamped on the Links.

1560, *April.*—"The Englishmen lodging on the south side of the toune beside Mount Pellam (*i.e.* Lady Fyfe's Brae) battered with their great artillerie at the parish church of Leith and at St. Anthonies Steeple on which the Frenchmen had laid certain pieces of artillerie and at length broke it down."

1560, *April 14th*—"On Easter Sunday the English Army kept up a constant fire upon the town and the church. The people at the time were assembled for worship, when, during the celebration of high mass and immediately before the elevation of the host, a bullet was shot through the great east window, passing right over the Altar."

1560, *April* 15.—"The fort of Mount Somerset (*i.e.* Giant's Brae) wes cast and performed scituate upon the clay hills east from the Kirk of Leith about twoe fflight shott where the great ordinance being placed, they beganne

to shoote at St. Anthony's Steeple in Leith upon the which Steeple the Frenchmen had mounted some artillerie which was verie noisome to the campe but within a few houris eftir the said steeple was broken and shott downe; likewise they shott downe some part of the east end of the Kirk of Leith."

1560.—"Upon the 20th April the principal blockhouse of Leith, called St Anthonys kirk, was battered down, and also the high kirk where the vivers lay."

1560, *July* 16.—The siege being ended by a Treaty of Peace the English Army departed. A public thanksgiving was ordained, and Mr David Lindsay preached in Leith.

1560, *July* 19*th.*—The Reformation being accomplished, David Lindsay was appointed first Protestant Minister of Leith. He was an intimate friend of John Knox. His name occurs in 50 Assemblies, in six of which he was chosen Moderator. In 1600 he became Bishop of Ross, with a seat in Parliament, and in 1610 he was consecrated in the church. He was also one of the Commissioners for the Union of Scotland and England in 1603.

"The gown was na sooner aff and the Bible out of hand fra the kirk, when on ged the corslet and fangit was the hagbot and to the fields."

1560, *Decr.* 20*th.*—The first General Assembly of the Reformed Kirk of Scotland was held in Edinburgh on this date. David Lindsay, Minister, Andrew Lamb, and Patrick Boyman were the representatives from Leith.

In this Assembly "It was found reasonable and expedient that the parochiners of Restalrig sould repaire to the kirk of Leith, and that the kirk of Restalrig sould be razed and utterlie destroyed as a monument of idolatrie."

1562, *January* 24.—Stipend to Mr David Lindesay £200 scots; to John Moresoun, reader, £20 scots.

1565.—The Tolbooth was erected in Leith by order of Mary, Queen of Scots. Her arms, originally built therein, are now within the Tower of South Leith Church.

1570.—War broke out between the partisans of Queen Mary and those of her son James VI. The former occupied Edinburgh Castle under Kirkcaldy of Grange. The latter established their headquarters in Leith, where the Regent Lennox built a Council Chamber on the Coal Hill. This was also the Council House of the Regents Mar and Morton.

1571.—A Convention, which assumed the function of an Assembly, was convened at Leith.

The sermon at the opening of this Convention was preached by David Ferguson, Minister of Dunfermline. It is entitled "Ane sermon prechit before the Regent and nobilitie upon a part of the thrid chapter of Malachi (verses 7-12) in the Kirk of Leith on Sonday the 13 Januarie anno do 1571."

The dedication to the Regent Mar is dated 20th August 1572. The last piece of public service by Knox was to examine and approve of this sermon "with my dead hand but glaid heart praising God that of his mercy he levis such light to his kirk in this desolation."

1589.—David Lindsay, at Trondheim, performed the marriage ceremonies of King James VI. and Anne of Denmark. He also took part in the coronation of the Queen at Holyrood.

1591.—The Earl of Moray, murdered at Donibristle, was buried in St. Mary's Chapel.

1594, *February* 19*th.*—David Lindsay at the baptism of Henry, Duke of Rothesay, afterwards Prince of Wales, "made a learned speech in the French language to the ambassadors who were present."

1595, 25 *Novembris.*—"The Presbytery gave commission to David Lindsay and John Brand to converse with the neighbours for planting a Kirk on the north side of the Brig of Leith."

1595, 2 *Decembris.*—"David Lindsay and John Brand having conversed with the inhabitants, presented overtures that a parish might be made of the north side of the brig of Leith, and some towns next adjacent as Pilrig, Bonnington, Waraston, and Newhaven."

1596.—King James VI. granted to South Leith Kirk a charter of St. Anthony's lands. A bill was also passed by His Majesty in favour of the Session "to rais and lift the soume of 40s. money for everie tun of wyne ventit and run within the toun of Leith."

1600. —The news of the Gowrie Conspiracy reached Edinburgh on 6th August 1600.

"The sam day the Erle of Montrose being chanseler wt sundrie other nobillis went to the crosse of Edinr and yair hard Mr David Lindesay mak ane orisone and the haill peiple sett down on yr knees giving thanks to God for the Kings deliverance out of sic ane grate danger. The 11 day of Auguste being Moneday the king came over the Water. The toune with the haill suburbis met him upone the Sandies of Leith in armes wt grate joy and schutting of muskittis and shaking of pikes. He went to the Kirk of Leith to Mr David Lyndesayis orisone."

1600, *December* 23. — Prince Charles, afterwards King Charles I., was baptised at Dunfermline by David Lindsay, minister of Leith and titular Bishop of Ross. The text on which Mr Lindsay preached on that occasion was Romans xiii. 11.

1602, *Julii* 25.—"The session wt concurrence of the magistrates comanded be oppin proclamation & straik of drum that nane inhabitant within this toun send thair bairnes to ony uther schoole but all the lads to Mr Thomas Provand and all the lasses to James Hay fra this time fourth."

1609.—For participation in the Gowrie Conspiracy the Estates of Logan of Restalrig were forfeited to the Crown.

The corpse of Logan of Restalrig was disinterred from the church for trial in Edinburgh and the doom of forfeiture pronounced in Court by David Lindsay. The bones were believed to have been re-discovered in 1847.

The King bestowed the Restalrig Estates on Lord Balmerino, along with the patronage of the church. Balmerino House stood in the Kirkgate at the corner of Coatfield Lane. It was occupied by the Balmerino family until 1745, and now forms part of the Roman Catholic school.

1609, *June* 24.—An Act of Parliament was passed constituting St. Mary's the Parish Church of South Leith.

1610.—A period of Episcopal rule began, lasting until 1638.

1613, *April* 7.—King James VI. made a reversionary grant to the kirk session of the impost of £4 scots per tun upon all wine vended in Leith.

1613, *August* 14.—David Lindsay died at Leith, and was buried in the church "by his own directions as desiring to rest with that people on whom he had taken great pains during his life."

1614, *March* 2.—King James VI. granted to the Kirk Session the charter of their rights known as the Golden Charter.

1614, *Apryll* 15.—"The Sessioun ordains David Hamilton Francis Waldy to sie and taist Patrik Yuills wyne and to provyd ane trie to hauld ye same.

"Robert Flucker and Thomas Watsoune to prepair ye bread for ye comunion and to serve ye tabill—James Lookup and Patrik Yuill till delyver the wyne. For ye repairinge and poore upoun ye comunio day John Auchmuty, James Hoome, Alexander Bannes, Alexander Bell, James Mathesoun, David Jamiesoun, Andro Broun to serve ye wyne. For ye receavinge of ye Tickets Patrik Glassfuird, Gilbert Waddell, Alexander Aldinstoune, William Thomsoune, James Schee, Thomas Ramsay. To stand at ye heid of ye tabill, Gilbert Lambe, Johne Mathesoune."

1614.—King James VI. Hospital was founded and built on the east side of the Kirkgate, the site now forming part of the present burying-ground.

1615.—The first steeple was built at the west end of the church.

1616.—The King's Loft was built in the south aisle of the Church, "King James being at yt tyme cum to countrie."

1633, *Januar* 31.—"Ordained that becaus of ye King's cuming that there sall be ane new Pulpite." This refers to King Charles I.

1636, *May* 19.—"Ordaines ye skippers to have ye key of ye gramer schoole qlk is ye Leath Trinetie House."

1637, *July*.—The fortifications of Leith were restored, the churchyard dyke being made use of for this purpose.

1638, *Oct.* 12.—"The said day thair was presented and delivered to or sessione two silver basons . . . wt two silver coupes . . . The qlk basons and coups or sessione appoynted to be made be the Leard of Pilrig, and in payment thairof or sessione caused that the gowld coupe and gowld trinchar that was given be Richt Honerabill Generall Ruthven to or church for or communione, as also or sessione directed ane other silver piece to be sold to him in payment. The qlk silver piece was laft to or church be Wm. Balfour in his ler will. The forsaid basens is appoynted to be keeped in or chairtour chist for the service of or communione of the bodie and blood of Jesus Chryst."

(*Note.*—These two silver basins are still possessed by the church. They are engraved on the rim thus:—"DEO AND ECCLESIAE LETHENSI AVSTRALI DI PA RUTHVEN, EQUITVM TRIBVNVS ME D.D. 1638"; and on the inner circle thus:—"LONGIORI USU ATTRITUM ET LACERATUM INSTAURARI ET E PURIORI ARGENTO DENUO CONFLARI CURAVIT DICTAE ECCLESIAE CONSISTORIUM ANNO DOMI 1718.")

1643, *Octor.* 19.—"The said day it was mentionat in the sessioun that yr sould be a fast upo ye nixt Lord's Day befoir ye subscriveing of ye covenant betwixt ye three kingdoms, Scotland, Ingland, and Ireland, and all to sweir to ye said covenant. The tymes appoyntit for subscriveing of ye said covenant, vizt.:—For the toune of Leith, upo Twisday efter sermon, ye 24th; Thursday efter sermon ye 26th, and upo Fryday efter ye morning prayers ye 27 dayes of October 1643; Rastelrig upo ye Lord's Day efter noon, ye 29th of Octo."

1643, 22 *of October*.—"The sd day being the Lord's day yr was a solemne fast befor ye subscriving of the covenant of ye 3 kingdoms, Scot Land, Ingland, and Ireland; the said covenant being read be ye minister, Mr Ja. Sharp, ye said day, and all within ye church both pastors and people (at comand of ye minister) stood up upo yr feet and yr solemnlie with lifted up hands did sweir unto ye said covenant; and ye dyats prescreived for subscriveing yrof as is forsaid was intimat unto ye people."

1644, *May* 5.—Alexander Gibsone, A.M., minister of South Leith, appointed by the Presbytery to attend the Covenanting army going in England.

1644, *July* 4.—Thanksgiving service held in South Leith Church for victory of Marston Moor.

1645, 19 *May*.—"Upon the 19 of May 1645 the pest brak out in our new hospital called King James his Hospital in a woman's scool yr, qrupon sundrie houses were closit up.

"Also our reader, Mr David Aldinstoune, was desyred to keip his house becaus he prayed for ane Margt Gilmuir, who was suspect to have died of the pest.

"So ye said Mr David was inclosit from ye 16 of May 1645 to 15 of June ye said year, during ye qlk tyme he could not gait certaine notice what was done in ye sessione, wrfor he left yis blanke following."

(*Note.*—Here follow six blank pages.)

1645, *August* 2.—An Act of Parliament givin at Perth "for releife of the distressit toun of Leith being visit with the plague of pestilence in such sort that the nomber of the dead exceeds the nomber of the leiving, and amongst them it cannot be decernit quha are clean and quha are foulle, and make the calamitie greater they are visit with ane lamentabill famine."

1646, *Febr.* 3.—"Note of defuncts ye tym of ye visitatioun. The whole no. in South Leith is 2421; in Restalrig yr died to the number of 160; in Craigend yr died 155. The number of the whole defuncts in the whole parioch wil be 2736."

1647, *Octr.* 8.—"Our bailies, James Eillies and David Wilkie, giftit to our kirk sessione yis day ane silver laver for the use of ye Kirk of South Leith."

(*Note.*—This handsome laver or basin, made of hammered silver, is the baptismal basin of the church, and continues to be in constant use. On the rim, which

is flat, there is engraved :—"Gifted to the South Kirk of Leith by James Rucheid and James Elles and David Vilkie, bailies, 1647.")

1648, *Feb.* 22.—"William Trotter and umqll James Barnes, who were baillies in anno 1646, gave in yis day to or sessioune ane great silver coupe for ye use of or kirk." The inscription on this cup bears :—"Givin to the Sout Kirk of Leith be William Trotter and James Barnes, bailies in tyme of pest, anno 1645."

1648.—King James VI. Hospital appropriated by the kirk session for the reception of aged and indigent women.

1648.—Conference held in the church between the Covenanters and King Charles' party.

1650, *May* 12.—"Also ye said day intimatione was maid that ye new paraphraise of ye psalme book was to be begunne to be sung upon Wedensday nixt."

Lord Balmerino was a member of the Westminster Assembly, from which the metrical version of the psalms is dated.

1650.—"There was no session holdine from ye 7 of Julie 1650 untill the 26 of December 1651 be reasone of the great troubles and warrs betwixt Scotland and England. The Scots armie lying in leigour (*i.e.*, leaguer) in Leith and about it, and efter the defeat at Dunbar, the ministers and most part of all ye honest people fled out the toun for fear of ye enemie."

1651, *Nov.* 23.—"The which day was the first day that Mr Jon Weir, our pastor (immediately efter his returning hom) did convene the scattered congregaone of South Leith together (being ye Lord's Day), and preached to ym in the Caitchhall at the foot of the Cannongaite."

1652, 31 *Octr.*—"The qlk day Mr George Lesly (being appoynted be ye Presbyterie) did preach at Restalrig to our scattered congregatione of South Leith—it being ye will of ye Presbyterie that the preaching should be yr (because it was within the parioch), and that it sould continue yr till it shall please God to provyde ye church of Leith for yem as formerlie."

1654, 22 *of June.*—"The wch day Mr Johne Hogg did preach at Leith, wch was ye first day of preaching yr since the 3 of September 1650, but yr was no sessione and the preaching was in the Tolbuith.

1654.—"Vpon the 13th day of November being ye Lord's day ye preaching began agane to be in our Church. PRASES TO OUR LORD FOR EVER."

1655, 2 *May.*—"The which day Major Pearson, Town Major of this Garrison, came to James Stevinson our present Thesaurer (by order of Thimothie Wilks, Governor Deput), and required the keys of our Church door from us saying that the deputy would not suffer any Scots Minister to preach yr till farder ordour."

1655, *Agust* 2.—"James Riddell and Ja. Kyll are desyred to speek with the deputie governour to see if his honour would be pleased to cause the port to be open upo the Lord's day betwixt 7 hours in the forenoon untill 2 hours in ye efternoon for outgoing and incoming of the people to sermond in the Links."

1655 *Novr.* 1.—"The session and neighbours haith agreed with Ja Riddell for his loft in the Dubraw above the soap house to be the gramer school . . . Ordaines to buy some dealls and trees to mak up some seats in ye school for ye bairnes."

1656, 13 *March.*—"It is unanimuslie condescended and concluded that ane petitione sould be sent up to England to the Lord Protector concerning our kirk, that it would please his heighness to cause restor it to us agan, that we may convein in it for ye worship of God, seing we have no place to meitt in but in ye open fields."

"Also to writ to Collonell Fenwick, governour of Leith qo for the pnt is at Londone, that his honour would be assistant yrunto."

1656, 26 *of June.*—"Anthoine Rosewell, James Cutler, and John Young, Tailzer, are desyred to goe to the North Kirk Session of Leith to intimat unto them that ye Counsell of Stat in Scotland, efter ye sight of ane reference

(from his heighness the Lord Protector), haith appoynted the south congregation of Leith to have the use of the North Kirk to preach in for a tyme until the Magasin be removit from ye South paroch unto ye Citidal, at which tym the South Congregation are to be restored to yr owne South Kirk again God willing."

1657.—"Our South Kirk of Leith was restored to us agan upon the 30 of Jun 1657."

1661 *May* 29.—Thanksgiving services were held in the church for "the wonderful restoration of our King to the throne of his three kingdomes."

1661.—A period of Episcopal rule began which lasted until 1689.

1674.—The Steeple, first erected in 1615, was rebuilt and the expense defrayed by laying the town under contribution. A new clock was also added and bells.

1681 *July* 21.—"Ordains ye great bell to be rung for five a clock in ye morning and eight at night; for ye sermons ordain ye smallest bell to be tolled for ye first bell; it and ye bell of ye middle size for ye second bell; and for ye third bell all ye three together."

1687.—A separation took place in the Church, the party adhering to prelacy occupying St. Mary's with Mr Kay as minister, and the presbyterian party forming a congregation in the Meeting House Green near the Sheriff Brae with Mr Wishart as minister.

1692, 11*th August*.—"Yesterday ye 10th inst. the Presbytery of Edr., with the Magtrates of Edinr. and Leith, came to Leith and required the keyes of the Church doores from ye mins and neighbours, to which it was answrd yt if they had any warrant from ye Privy Counsell for yt effect or any remitt from them to ye Presbt. authorizing them to proceed, they were ready to give obedience but none being produced they thought themselves not obliged, ye matter being still depending before the Counsell, and protested against any violent intrusion to be made by them and for coast skaith and damage and for remead of law; notwithstanding yrof ye Magrtes etc. and Presbytery with a confused company of people entered the Church by breaking open ye windows, breaking off ye lock of ye doors of ye Church and putting on new ones, and so caused guard the Church doors wt halberds, rang the bell and possest Mr Whiseart of ye Church; agt all which irregular procedure publick protests were taken."

"This day being the ordinary day for weekly sermon and session Mr Wisheart came to ye Church wt a guard of halberds and preached, and after sermon took possession of ye session house, Mr Kay and his session being refused entry, the Bailies of Leith declaring yt Mr Wisheart's session was the only legall session; upon which Mr Kay took instruments."

1692.—Rev. William Wishart conducted forenoon services in the church and Rev. Charles Kay conducted afternoon services there.

1700 *July* 16.—Rev. James Dickson A.M. admitted minister of the second charge.

1701, *April* 17.—"Appoints ye thesaurer to set up ye tent in ye church yard, to remove ye seats, and get up ye tables and seats for ye magistrates; sermon to begin on Saturday at 2 o'clock; sermon to begin on Sabbath at 8 o'clock morning; sermon to begin at 9 o'clock on Monday morning; refers to the thesaurer and ye clerk to cause make four dozen of bread; refers to Wm. Wilson to trye for ye best claret wyne and to inform ye thesaurer who is to tak fyve gallons of it."

1702 *July* 23.—"On the 3rd instant it pleased ye just and holy God to visit this town for heinous sins against him with a very terrible sudden stroak which was occasioned by the fyreing of 33 barrells of powder; which dreadful stroak and terrible blast as it was heard even at mony myles distance with great terror and amazement so it hath caused great ruin and desolation in this place having smitten 7 or 8 persons at least with sudden death, and burned the houses next adjacent to ruinous heaps, and torn off ye roofs, beaten down ye windows, and broken doun ye lumber partitions of a great many houses and buildings."

"Collections for help thro Scotland. Collected in Leith qrs £296:19:02 scots."

1706.—The Rev. William Wishart was appointed moderator of the General Assembly this year; and on four subsequent occasions. He became Principal of Edinburgh University.

1708 *April* 22.—The Rev. John Shaw admitted minister of the first charge.

1709.—The first centenary of the church was commemorated by the acquisition of four communion tankards or flagons, which bear the inscription "For Sowth Leath Church 1709."

1710 *June* 28.—At a presbytery visitation it was reported that the stipend of the Rev. John Shaw was 5 chalders, 500 merks, £47:10s pew duty, with manse and glebe; the stipend of the Rev. James Dickson was 1200 merks payable by the incorporations, "who are so generous that they are about purchasing a manse to him."

1710 *Decr* 14.—"Reported by Thomas Brugh that the Masters of the Trinity House adheared to their former act appointing the rent of the Schooll to be £3 stg otherwayes the session to provide themselves in a Schooll. The session agrees and appoints the hospitall to be repaired for a schooll and the rent of it to be £30 scots yearly and the Masters (of the Hospital) to repair it and maintain it."

1712 *July* 25.—Rev. William Brown A.M. admitted minister of the second charge.

1721 *Aug* 17.—Rev. James Stevenson A.M. admitted minister of the second charge.

1725 *May* 27.—Meeting of the incorporations anent "augmentation of our minister's stipend out of the Town of Edinburgh's gift of impost upon ale."

1731 *August* 5.—"Reported that the contract for the communion elements is signed." By this contract £6 became payable annually at Lammas from the Restalrig Estates.

1736 *March* 11.—Narrative prepared anent the Hospital and superiorities thereof and inserted in the Register by the Kirk Session "for the benefit of their successors." The narrative includes the grant by King James VI dated 7 April 1613; also "the dwelling house in the hospital possessed by Mr Hugh Millar, schoolmaster" and "a laigh house there set for the grammar school."

1740 *June* 26.—Rev. William Aitken admitted minister of the first charge.

1746.—Arthur, sixth and last Earl of Balmerino, was beheaded on Tower Hill for participation in the 1745 Rebellion. His estates were confiscated, and subsequently acquired by the Earl of Morray. The patronage of the first charge reverted to the Crown.

1746 *Novr* 20.—Rev. Robert Walker admitted minister of the second charge.

1746.—"Church decorated with five beautiful stonern jamb windows on each side thereof which being found hurtful to the roof were taken down in 1747 and 1748."

1754 *Feby* 7.—The Earl of Moray was put in possession of the seats in the church which were formerly possessed by Lord Balmerino, on condition that he granted to the incorporations a servitude right to bring water into Leith from Lochend Loch.

1755 *July* 10.—Rev. Alexander Stuart admitted minister of the second charge.

1761 *Septr* 7.—Lustre or branch candlesticks first put up within the church.

1762 *Novr* 12.—Rev. Thomas Scott A.M. admitted minister of the second charge. He was transferred to the first charge on 26 September 1765.

1766 *Jany* 9.—Rev. Henry Hunter D.D. admitted minister of the second charge.

1770 *August* 2.—Petition presented by the inhabitants of Newhaven for enlargement of their burial place.

1773 *April* 2.—Rev. John Logan admitted minister of the second charge "but not till both the Ecclesiastical and civil courts had decided on his claim." He was the reputed author of Paraphrases viii, ix, x, xi, xviii, xxxi, xxxviii, xlviii, liii, lviii.

1773.—St John's church built as a Chapel-of-Ease to South Leith.

1779, *April.*—A Regiment of Highland Soldiers mutinied, and forty of their number were shot in front of the Old Ship Tavern on the Shore. The victims were buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, where a large grassy mound long marked the place of their interment.

1787 *March* 4.—John Balfour of Pilrig asks permission to enclose burial ground 17 feet by 14 feet adjoining garden wall of grammar school.

1787 *July* 17.—Rev. Robert Dickson D.D. admitted minister of the second charge. He was transferred to the first charge on 29 September 1790.

1788 *Feby* 10.—Sunday School started in South Leith.

1790 *August.*—Constitution Street formed to give a better access to Bernard Street and the Shore; new east wall and gates built to churchyard "as a great ornament to the church."

1791 *Feby* 17.—Rev. Thomas Macknight admitted minister of the second charge.

1794 *Feby* 10.—Badges given to beggars licensed by Kirk Session to beg in the parish.

1800, *October* 14*th.*—"The session being met and constituted Dr Macknight moderator. On Sabbath last the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated here. Present, Mr George Smith, Master of Trinity House, Bailie Robert Strong, Master of the Incorporation of Traffickers, Mr James Bennarmann, Master of the Incorporation of Maltmen, Mr Peter Macleran, Convener of the Trades, Mr James Bell, Rev. Dr Dickson, Rev. Mr Macknight, and other members of session."

1804 *Decr* 13.—Rev. James Robertson D.D. admitted minister of the second charge.

1805 *July* 2.—The inhabitants of Newhaven petition the Kirk Session to allow them to enlarge their burial ground "they having bought two old houses contiguous to the south whose sites they wish to add to it."

1806.—Leith High School built in the Links.

1809 *April* 11.—Foot pavement laid along the east and west sides of the churchyard.

1809 *April* 25.—The water engine belonging to the town kept in the under part of the Cantore.

1809 *June* 24.—Second Centenary of the church.

1813 *Decr.*—Boys Charity School housed free of rent in old Grammar School.

1822.—King James VI. Hospital was demolished and the site added to the churchyard.

1824, *August* 24.—James Grant, D.D., admitted minister of first charge.

1833, *March* 14.—Rev. David Thorburn admitted minister of second charge. He seceded from the Church of Scotland on 6th July 1843.

1836.—The steeple built in 1674, becoming unsafe, was taken down "at 10 minutes to 2 o'clock on 30th September, it being 24 inches off the perpendicular."

1844, *Feby.* 15.—Rev. Henry Duff admitted minister of second charge. On his death, 12th June 1873, the second charge ended.

1844, *May* 10.—Rev. William Stevenson admitted minister of first charge. He became Professor of Church History in 1861.

1846, July 16.—An Act of Parliament was passed to provide for the repair of the church; to confirm the purchase of the manse; and to transfer the patronage of the second charge from the incorporations to the communicants.

1847, *Decr.*—Erection of St. Thomas' Parish.

1848.—The Church was restored and altered at great cost, and the present square tower was added. Mr Thomas Hamilton, Architect; George Aldinstone M'Laren, Provost.

1862.—Portobello Parish erected, partly from South Leith, mainly from Duddingston.

1864, *March* 24.—Rev. James Mitchell, M.A., admitted minister of the first charge.

1869, *July* 19.—Erection of St. John's Parish. From 1843 to 1868 St. John's was occupied as a Free Church.

1873, *July* 21.—An Act of Parliament was passed to provide for the discontinuance of the second charge and for other church purposes.

1875, *July* 25.—Ground purchased in Duke Street for erection of Sabbath School.

1876, *March* 6.—Erection of Abbey Parish.

1887, *Sept.*—Organ introduced into Church.

1889.—Presentation of portrait to Dr Mitchell on the occasion of his semi-jubilee.

1892.—West window presented in memory of James Struthers, M.D.

1893, *Jany.* 23.—Erection of St. Paul's Parish.

1893-1894.—Church re-seated, presentations made of new Pulpit by Charles Combe, Esq., Communion Table by Dr Mitchell, and east window by congregation.

1895, *Nov.* 7.—Presentation of Baptismal Font.

1901.—Rev. Dr Mitchell elected Moderator of the General Assembly.

1902.—Elders' vestry added to Church, and electric light introduced.

1903, *Dec.* 31.—Resignation of the Very Rev. James Mitchell, D.D.

1904, *Septr.* 27.—Rev. John White, M.A., admitted minister of South Leith.

1906, *Octr.* — Lectern introduced into Church.

1907, *Novr.* 12. — Halls in Duke Street opened after being reconstructed.

1909, *June* 24. — Celebration of Tercentenary.

1909, *Dec. 2nd, 3rd, 4th.*—Bazaar.

1910, *May* 20.—Memorial Service for King Edward VII.

1911, *June* 7.—Rev. John White translated to the Barony Parish.

1911, *June* 22.—Coronation Service for King George V.

INDEX

To pages 1 to 184.

Abbeyhill (*v.* Purves).
Abercorn, Earl of, 90.
Aboyne, Viscount of, 49.
Absence from Church (*v.* Sabbath).
Academy, 108.
Accounts, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 21, 24, 37, 45, 47, 52, 65, 66, 69, 70, 73, 80, 92, 99, 109, 130, 135, 136, 140, 143, 144, 159, 162, 163, 164, 172, 177.
Act (of 1609, &c.), 7, 54, 62, 88, 91, 96, 98, 145, 149, 150, 159, 161, 165.
Aldinstone, David, 16, 24, 43, 44, 46, 47, 52, 53, 55, 58, 62, 63, 65, 69, 71, 81, 82, 89, 94, 98, 99, 102, 105, 106, 108, 109, 110, 115, 119, 121, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129.
Altarstane, 44, 66.
Anchorfield (*v.* Newhaven).
Ann, 86.
Annandale, Earl of, 127, 184.
Arbuthnot, Lord, 182.
Archbishop of St. Andrews (*v.* Bishop).
Archery, 8.
Arms, 114, 117, 118, 129, 135, 136.
Army, 37, 41, 45, 47, 50, 51, 53, 84, 87, 93, 99, 101, 102, 103, 111, 113, 114, 121, 132, 140, 145, 146, 147, 159, 160, 177, 178, 179.
Auditors (*v.* Accounts).

Backside, 45, 59, 66, 113, 114.
Badges, 28, 131, 171.
Bailies (*v.* Courts, St. Anthony), 7, 9, 10, 12, 16, 19, 20, 25, 26, 31, 32, 33, 35, 39, 42, 48, 51, 55, 56, 58, 61, 68, 70, 75, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 87, 88, 90, 101, 106, 107, 109, 110, 111, 112, 114, 119, 121, 122, 129, 133, 134, 135, 138, 142, 145, 147, 150, 151, 152, 154, 157, 158, 159, 160, 163, 166, 167, 168, 170, 171, 174, 175, 176, 177, 179, 180, 183, 184.
Balfour (*v.* Pilrig).
Balmerino, Lord, 16, 17, 29, 30, 32, 39, 46, 55, 66, 67, 68, 69, 72, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 88, 90, 91, 93, 94, 95, 99, 110, 111, 112, 113, 115, 116, 123, 130, 131, 153, 171, 172.
Banishment, 1, 10, 23, 74, 122, 134.
Banns 1, 30, 64, 69, 80, 83, 169.
Baptism, 7, 25, 36, 80, 82, 85, 86, 91, 127, 128, 132, 134, 146, 155, 165.
Barbers, 31.
Basins, 29, 46, 66, 80, 105, 107, 116, 127, 131, 155, 162.
Baxters, 19, 75, 79, 81, 86, 99, 120, 177, 178, 179, 180.
Beadle, 4, 5, 29, 36, 37, 43, 45, 74, 93, 95, 99, 100, 110, 113, 123, 125, 131, 132, 134, 135, 136, 138, 139, 141, 145, 147, 148, 153, 155, 157, 158, 163, 174, 178, 184.
Beasts, 1, 4, 11, 113, 114, 119, 129, 130, 132, 145, 182.
Beggars (*v.* Badges), 7, 10, 16, 28, 74, 75, 79, 82, 90, 116, 119, 131, 133, 142, 170, 183.
Behaviour at Kirk (*v.* Children), 5, 13, 36, 135, 141.
Bells, 5, 7, 18, 20, 21, 22, 26, 32, 37, 38, 52, 69, 71, 72, 83, 108, 112, 113, 116, 119, 121, 137, 138, 139, 140, 144, 150, 151, 163, 168, 176, 177, 178, 179, 181.
Bequests (*v.* Gifts).
Bernard (Street, Neuk), 1, 23, 104, 174, 181.
Bishop, 7, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 31, 124, 125, 126, 127 138, 140, 143, 144, 146.
Blasphemy (*v.* Swearing, Discipline), 3, 34, 41, 134.
Blockhouse, 56.
Boats, 8, 31, 45, 75, 87, 120.
Bond, 8, 14, 23, 111.
Bonnington, 5, 55.
Bothwell, Lord, 21.
Bowie's Close, 77.
Box (*v.* Collections), 4, 13, 35, 78, 88, 91, 137, 143, 144, 145, 147, 148.
Brewery (*v.* Houses), 60, 63.
Bridals (*v.* Marriage, Penny Weddings).
Broad Wynd, 103.
Building (*v.* Houses).
Burials (*v.* Church Interments), 5, 8, 10, 13, 23, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 72, 87, 88, 100, 116, 125, 130, 131, 135, 137, 139, 140, 141, 150, 178, 180, 182.

Cables Wynd, 125, 154, 158.
Callings (*v.* Incorporations).
Calton (*v.* Craigend).
Candles, 169.
Canongate, 31, 59, 93, 95, 137, 174, 179.
Canonmills, 21, 77.
Cant, Rev. Andrew, 125, 126, 127, 128, 130, 131, 132, 133, 137.

Cantore (*v.* Kintore).
Cards, 47.
Carters (*v.* Incorporations), 53, 56, 57, 59, 63, 68, 85, 122, 138, 140.
Casualties (*v.* Lands).
Catechism, 7, 15, 18, 90, 91, 142, 161, 179.
Censure (*v.* Discipline), 31, 39, 50, 84, 85, 86, 134.
Chairs (*v.* Seats), 3, 20, 70, 72, 125.
Charles (*v.* King Charles).
Charter (Chest), 22, 23, 29, 34, 35, 36, 38, 42, 48, 49, 65, 66, 94, 95, 120, 127, 135, 147.
Children, 15, 36, 48, 52, 86, 103, 134, 135, 136, 138, 139, 141, 184.
Church, 11, 13, 19, 35, 42, 45, 48, 54, 65, 79, 84, 87, 93, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 106, 107, 114, 126, 127, 129, 139, 140, 148, 149, 150, 151, 154, 165, 166, 167, 168, 171, 174, 178.
—— (Interments), 3, 10, 23, 27, 38, 69, 70, 87, 88, 117, 120, 122, 123, 127, 130, 131, 143, 149, 150, 183.
—— Officer (*v.* Beadle).
—— (Repairs, &c.), 3, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 33, 35, 36, 39, 41, 53, 80, 81, 86, 90, 92, 105, 106, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 115, 116, 119, 126, 129, 134, 138, 141, 142, 172, 176, 180, 184.
Churchyard, 1, 4, 5, 27, 35, 36, 37, 44, 45, 46, 62, 66, 71, 72, 82, 87, 88, 89, 99, 103, 110, 112, 113, 114, 116, 117, 119, 121, 122, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 137, 138, 139, 141, 144, 145, 146, 153, 154, 158, 177, 178, 180, 181, 182, 183.
Citadel, 103, 116, 119, 121, 125, 145, 146, 147.
Clock, 1, 4, 26, 27, 71, 72, 83, 110, 112, 113, 139, 140, 141, 142, 144, 153, 179, 180.
—— Mill, 143, 145.
Coalhill (*v.* Quarters).
Coatfield, 1, 10, 13, 29.
Coins, 6, 27, 34, 84, 87, 88, 92, 113, 135, 148, 155, 158, 183.
Collections, 6, 13, 15, 18, 19, 28, 47, 48, 52, 57, 66, 69, 73, 79, 88, 92, 99, 104, 112, 117, 120, 122, 124, 127, 130, 133 135, 140, 142, 145, 147, 153, 155, 162, 163, 164, 167, 170, 175, 176, 177, 183.
—— Special, 14, 24, 34, 40, 46, 51, 56, 71, 75, 78, 82, 101, 120, 122, 143, 145, 147, 148, 159, 163.
Colston, Lady, 182.
Communion, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 20, 22, 23, 24, 29, 37, 38, 39, 40, 43, 46, 48, 54, 65, 66, 87, 105, 110, 112, 113, 115, 117, 133, 134, 145, 147, 152, 159, 163, 168, 169, 170, 177, 182, 183.
—— Elements (*v.* Cups), 12, 112, 115.
Confession of Faith, 90, 91.
Contracts (*v.* Marriage, Banns).
Convening House, 44, 181.
Coopers (*v.* Crafts, Incorporations), 114.
Cordwainers (*v.* Incorporations), 10, 49, 50, 86, 107, 108, 109, 135, 136.
Corsawr, Rev. John, 119, 120, 121, 124.
Counsel House, 4, 181.
Couper, Lord, 95, 96.
Courts (*v.* Bailies, St. Anthony's), 2, 19, 25, 35, 42, 71, 75, 150.
Covenanters, 34, 37, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 49, 50, 51, 75, 84, 85, 107, 117, 118, 129, 132, 137, 138, 140, 142, 153.
Crafts (*v.* Incorporations), 86, 107, 114, 118, 134, 177.
Craigend (*v.* Quarters), 1, 45, 69, 85, 93, 104, 106, 107, 120, 121, 122, 130, 131, 137, 138, 142, 144, 152, 156, 158, 167, 175, 180, 181.
Craigentinny (*v.* Nisbet).
Craigwell, 145.
Cramond, 118.
Cranston, Lord, 128.
Cranstoun, Rev. John, 15, 17.
Crawford, Earl of, 49.
Cromwell, 43, 50, 60, 84, 85, 89, 93, 94, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 106, 107, 111, 113, 114, 129, 180.
Cups (Communion), 27, 29, 43, 66, 80, 81, 105, 107, 116, 127, 163, 169.
Cursing (*v.* Discipline, Swearing), 2, 34.

Dalrymple, Lord, 167.
Dancing, 90.
Deacon, 1, 2, 18, 19, 35, 55, 74, 79, 91, 135, 143, 158, 166, 170, 172, 173, 175, 182.
Death Customs (*v.* Burials, Lykewakes).
Desks (*v.* Seats).
Dick, Sir William, 60.
Dickson, Rev. James, 183.
Discipline (*v.* Sabbath, Penalties, Repentance), 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 19, 22, 23, 30, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 51, 68, 74, 78, 79, 82, 84, 115, 120, 121, 122, 128, 133, 134, 144, 145, 147, 149, 151, 152, 159, 166, 171, 173, 176, 184.
Districts (*v.* Quarters), 1, 20.
Divorce, 125.
Doctor (*v.* Grammar School).
Dogs at Church (*v.* Beasts), 11.
Dollars (*v.* Coins).
Douglas, Marquess of, 130.
Dress (*v.* Plaids).
Drinking (*v.* Discipline), 1, 3, 22, 30, 31, 32, 34, 56, 57, 60, 68, 78, 87, 116, 179, 180.
Drum, 3, 22, 23, 26, 33, 44, 53, 65, 72, 75, 78, 84, 86, 138, 142, 170, 171, 178, 180.
Dubraw, 1, 102, 105, 145, 148.
Duke Street, 23.
Dunbar, 93.
Dyke (*v.* Churchyard).

Edinburgh (Town Council), 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 25, 26, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 42, 44, 53, 55, 58, 59, 60, 64, 71, 72, 74, 75, 80, 81, 82, 84, 86, 89, 102, 104, 112, 116, 118, 119, 121, 134, 136, 146, 147, 151, 157, 159, 160, 164, 175, 176, 177, 181.
Education (*v.* School), 12.
Elders, 1, 2, 21, 32, 35, 36, 55, 79, 90, 121, 131, 138, 146, 154, 155, 158, 160, 170, 172, 173, 181, 182.
Elphinstone (*v.* Balmerino).
Engagement, 84, 85, 88.
English (*v.* Army, Cromwell), 94, 106, 110, 113, 114, 116.
Episcopacy, 15, 18, 19, 20, 29, 76, 118, 124, 129, 139, 140, 141, 146, 148, 149, 150, 154, 161, 165, 168.
Examination, 7, 10, 87.
Excommunication, 5, 6, 48, 49, 90.

Fairlie, Rev. James, 15, 17.
Famine, 61, 62.
Fasts, 12, 34, 38, 41, 46, 50, 54, 85, 91, 121, 137, 159, 167, 169, 175, 177.
Fines (*v.* Discipline, Penalties).
Fire (*v.* Special Collections), 75, 164, 182.
Fleshers (*v.* Crafts).
Foreign Coins (*v.* Coins).
Funerals, (*v.* Burials).

Games, 8, 86.
Garrison (*v.* Army).
General Assembly, 36, 37, 41, 44, 46, 53, 76, 84, 90, 92, 96, 130, 157, 166, 184.
Giant's Brae, 56, 103.
Gibson, Rev. Alex., 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39, 41, 48, 49, 52, 53, 54, 60, 61, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 71, 72, 74, 75, 77, 78, 82, 85, 87, 88, 89. 93.
Gifts (*v.* Legacies), 29, 51, 73, 77, 80, 81, 84, 87.
Gilchrist, Rev. John, 179, 180.
Giles Street, 155, 164.
Glass, 80, 81, 90, 99, 132.
Glebe, 98, 102.
Glenbervie, 38, 78, 87, 88, 91.
Golden Charter (*v.* Charter), 35, 36.
Golf, 8, 9, 40, 86.
Governor (*v.* Cromwell), 95, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 106, 108, 110.
Graham (Marquis of Montrose), 49, 51, 72, 91, 127, 148.
Grammar School, 3, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 25, 26, 33, 34, 41, 43, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 68, 70, 74, 80, 82, 87, 88, 89, 90, 102, 105, 106, 108, 109, 111, 112, 113, 115, 119, 120, 121, 128, 129, 132, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 147, 149, 153, 154, 160, 162, 163, 168, 172, 173, 174, 176, 178, 179, 180, 181, 183.
Graves (*v.* Burials), 58, 59, 60, 61, 69, 99, 110, 113, 116, 121, 131, 141, 150, 163, 178, 182.
Greenland, 146.
Guild, Dean of (*v.* Houses).

Haddington, Earl of, 37.
Hamilton, Rev. John, 118, 119, 120, 123, 124, 125, 126, 128, 130, 132, 135, 137, 141.
Hammermen (*v.* Incorporations), 43, 52, 83, 100, 104, 115, 136, 139, 162.
Harbour (*v.* Boats).
Hay's Close, 127.
Heritors, 30, 35, 40, 45, 46, 47, 50, 54, 72, 78, 90, 96, 115, 119, 126, 133, 151, 152, 159, 161, 167, 169, 172, 173, 176, 180.
Herries, Lord, 49.
Hill (*v.* Quarters).
Hillhousefield, 8, 96, 121.
Hog, Rev. Thomas, 14, 15, 17.
Hogg, Rev. John, 95, 96, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 107, 108, 110, 111, 112, 115, 117, 118, 119.
Holy Blood Acre, 2, 106, 121, 173.
Home, Sir James, 122.
Hospital (King James, &c.), 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 44, 45. 54, 55, 61, 71, 75, 77, 80, 87, 96, 98, 99, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 119, 120, 122, 124, 125, 126, 127, 132, 135, 136, 138, 142, 143, 144, 145, 147, 148, 149, 150, 162, 166, 173, 175, 177, 180, 181, 184.
Houses, 16, 30, 63, 64, 65, 78, 96, 116, 119, 120, 125, 127, 130, 132, 133, 136, 138, 140, 141, 142, 146, 148, 170, 174, 176, 177.

Impost (Wine Tax), 12, 13, 14, 15, 28, 44, 53, 60, 75, 80, 81, 82, 83, 89, 92, 98, 104, 106, 110, 116, 118, 119, 124, 125, 129, 130, 131, 135, 136, 137, 141, 145, 175, 176, 180.
Imprisonment (*v.* Prison).
Incorporations, 6, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 35, 36, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 56, 71, 74, 78, 86, 88, 89, 91, 94, 99, 100, 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 110, 111, 113, 114, 115, 118, 119, 124, 125, 127, 128, 129, 130, 132, 134, 135, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 147, 150, 151, 172, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182.
Indulgence, 146, 154, 165.
Insane, 19.
Invasion, 51.
Irish, 40, 46.

James (*v.* King James).
Jougs, 19, 31, 34, 87, 108, 146.

Kay, Rev. Charles, 125, 139, 140, 142, 144, 145, 146, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 160, 161, 165, 166, 168, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175.
Killiecrankie, 163, 164.
King Charles, 23, 29, 37, 40, 41, 84, 91, 101, 116, 118, 129.
—— James Hospital (*v.* Hospital).
—— James, 39, 114, 118, 119, 146, 154, 162, 165, 180, 181.
—— William, 159, 160, 164.

King's Loft, 39, 117, 118, 120.
—— Work, 23, 104, 106, 112, 181.
Kinnoul, Earl of, 90.
Kintor, Rev. George, 104, 105, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 117, 118.
Kintore, 22, 100, 137, 145, 146, 147, 148, 150, 151, 152, 165, 168, 171, 180, 182, 183.
Kirkgate, 42, 45, 56, 61, 93, 114, 116, 130, 149, 174.
Knock (*v.* Clock).

Lamb Family, 6, 8, 23, 26, 28, 38, 96, 108, 126, 127, 132, 138.
Lampridge, 127, 148.
Landlord (*v.* Houses).
Lands, 2, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 32, 34, 35, 64, 73, 80, 86, 96, 98, 102, 103, 106, 108, 112, 120, 121, 122, 127, 134, 135, 136, 140, 141, 162, 170, 173.
Laver (*v.* Basin), 80.
Lawson's Wynd, 149.
Lecture (*v.* Sermon, Services), 178.
Lees (*v.* Quarters).
Legacies (*v.* Gifts), 24, 36, 38, 40, 57, 60, 65, 71, 83, 96, 131, 152.
Letting Houses (*v.* Houses).
Lindsay, Bernard, 1, 23, 34, 69, 70, 181.
—— Rev. David, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 54, 69, 70, 86, 130, 157, 180.
—— Sir Jerome, 3, 4, 9, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 31, 35, 37, 40, 41, 44, 69, 70.
Linen Clothes (*v.* Sackcloth), 1.
Links, 40, 45, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65, 75, 82, 84, 87, 93, 99, 101, 103, 104, 106, 138, 144, 145, 179, 182.
Lochend, 64.
Lodge-me-Lonne, 144.
Lofts (*v.* Seats), 36, 47, 52, 99, 100, 101, 104, 107, 108, 109, 110, 114, 115, 117, 118, 119, 132, 135, 159, 177, 179, 182.
Logan Family, 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 13, 15, 22, 29, 72, 91, 99, 100, 101, 110.
Ludges, 56, 65, 75, 77.
Lykwakes, 11, 82.

Magistrates (*v.* Bailies).
Maitland, Lord, 51.
Maltmen (*v.* Incorporations), 4, 5, 8, 25, 35, 41, 43, 57, 79, 85, 107, 112, 114, 119, 122, 135, 143, 144, 146, 147.
Manse, 98, 102, 110, 116, 124, 142, 149, 172, 174, 177, 182.
Marriage, 6, 7, 8, 13, 21, 24, 25, 30, 35, 36, 53, 64, 65, 68, 77, 78, 82, 83, 85, 94, 103, 104, 111, 116, 118, 119, 120, 122, 124, 127, 128, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135, 136, 140, 146, 155, 157, 159, 160, 165, 172, 184.
Masons (*v.* Crafts).
Masters (*v.* Hospital, School).
Mathison's Close, 66.
Maxwell, Lord, 124.
Meeting House, 146, 151, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 164, 165, 167, 168, 169, 170, 178, 179.
Meikle's Close, 155.
Merks (*v.* Coins).
Mills (Leith), 160.
Milne, Robert, 128, 129, 130, 131, 138, 153.
Ministers, 4, 6, 7, 11, 14, 17, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 72, 74, 87, 88, 91, 100, 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, 116, 120, 124, 125, 128, 129, 132, 134, 138, 139, 146, 147, 150, 151, 154, 155, 156, 161, 174, 179, 181, 183.
Money (*v.* Coins).
Monk, General, 93, 101, 103.
Montrose (*v.* Graham).
Moray, Earl of, 69, 131, 149.
Mortcloths, 178.
Morton, Rev. Wm., 20, 26, 27, 29, 34.
Mortonhall, 68, 81.
Moubray Family, 36, 37, 38, 40, 47, 49, 50, 52, 59, 65, 67, 69, 70, 72, 73, 74, 77, 81, 82, 83, 88, 90, 92.
Murray, Rev. John, 4, 6, 7.
Music (*v.* School), 9, 11, 22, 43, 44, 46, 80, 89, 105, 106, 108, 128, 129, 137, 138, 181.

Neighbours (*v.* Incorporations), 18.
Newhaven, 32, 35, 71, 96, 106, 125, 133, 135, 136, 141, 148, 173.
Newton, Lady, 137.
Nisbet, 88, 94, 95, 96, 99, 103, 107, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 117, 123, 130, 153. 171, 178.
Nithsdale, Earl of, 49.
North Leith, 39, 53, 59, 66, 103, 107, 116, 121, 127, 138, 139, 147, 153, 155, 156, 157, 160, 165, 171, 173, 183.

Offences (*v.* Discipline, Drinking, Scandal, Swearing), 45, 47, 55, 84, 85, 87.
Officers (*v.* Army).
Ogilvie, Lord, 49.
Orange, Prince of, 159.

Parson's Green, 174.
Pawns, 8, 24, 53, 77, 80, 94, 110, 118, 127, 130, 132, 137, 143.
Peatneuk, 143, 149.
Penalties (*v.* Discipline), 35, 37, 38, 43, 52, 73, 78, 120, 122, 127, 130, 145, 148, 158, 166.
Penance (*v.* Repentance).
Penny Weddings (*v.* Marriages), 53, 77, 111, 118.

Pensioners, 23, 36, 41, 74, 91, 105, 133, 136, 141, 182, 183.

Pews (*v.* Seats).

Pillar (*v.* Repenting Stool).

Pilrig, 11, 19, 29, 58, 74, 83, 102, 151.

Plague, 43, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 68, 69, 71, 75, 80, 82, 121, 129.

Plaids, 50, 182.

Poor (*v.* Hospital, Beggars), 2, 6, 9, 12, 13, 15, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28, 35, 36, 37, 43, 47, 51, 52, 54, 56, 70, 73, 83, 84, 86, 88, 89, 90, 91, 99, 112, 115, 118, 124, 128, 130, 131, 132, 135, 136, 137, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 149, 155, 158, 159, 162, 163, 164, 166, 169, 170, 171, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 181, 182, 183, 184.

Popery, 5, 6, 48, 49, 55, 159.

Porch, 14, 22, 37, 38, 79, 87, 100, 112, 113, 137, 138, 151, 165, 171.

Ports, 66, 101, 104.

Potterrow, 15, 75.

Precentor, 25, 46, 88, 89, 129, 136, 138, 142, 143, 144, 155, 157, 158, 159, 168, 169, 181.

Presbytery, 33, 35, 36, 38, 49, 67, 75, 85, 88, 90, 94, 95, 99, 102, 103, 106, 107, 126, 148, 150, 151, 152, 153, 157, 160, 161, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 171, 172, 173, 174, 179, 180, 183, 184.

Prison, 1, 6, 7, 11, 20, 21, 52, 54, 64, 128, 130, 131, 144, 145, 146, 148, 152, 153, 157, 159, 161, 163.

Proclamations (*v.* Banns).

Psalms, 2, 46, 91 163.

Pulpit, 4, 23, 54, 72, 73, 79, 85, 87, 88, 100, 101, 106, 109, 110, 115, 116, 129, 130, 156, 159, 168, 178, 180, 181, 182.

Purves, 94, 95, 96, 100, 103, 104, 111, 112, 113, 117, 118, 123, 130, 153.

Quakers, 109, 134, 181.

Quarry Holes (*v.* Quarters).

Quarters, 1, 18, 20, 21, 24, 44, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 68, 69, 79, 85, 87, 105, 123, 141, 149, 153, 166, 169, 170, 182.

Quay, 59, 63.

Quoits, 20.

Ransoms (*v.* Turks).

Reader, 5, 7, 9, 19, 22, 24, 25, 34, 44, 110, 119, 128, 129, 144.

Reek Penny, 113.

Regiment (*v.* Army).

Repentance (*v.* Discipline, Offences), 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 21, 22, 31, 37, 38, 39, 43, 70, 78, 85, 136, 142, 144.

Repenting Seat or Stool, 1, 3, 11, 16, 31, 68, 78, 79, 85, 86, 119, 134, 138, 148.

Restalrig, 5, 12, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29, 32, 37, 42, 45, 46, 47, 51, 61, 63, 68, 69, 75, 77, 85, 87, 88, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 102, 103, 104, 108, 109, 110, 112, 113, 117, 120, 122, 123, 130, 135, 138, 140, 145, 152, 156, 158, 159, 161, 175, 181.

Restoration, 116.

Riddle, James, 99, 101, 102, 105, 107, 112, 115.

Riddle's Close, 102, 107, 151.

Riot, 42, 51, 83, 108, 151.

Roxburgh, Lord, 184.

Ruthven, General, 27, 28, 29, 54, 73, 88.

Sabbath (Breaking, Observance), 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 20, 21, 26, 31, 32, 37, 43, 45, 47, 51, 52, 68, 75, 78, 84, 86, 91, 96, 103, 120, 131, 133, 134, 136, 152, 159, 166, 167, 171, 175, 177, 179, 180, 182, 184.

Sackcloth, 1, 31, 37, 38, 39, 41, 48, 119, 138, 142, 149.

Sacrament (*v.* Communion).

Sailors (*v.* Trinity House, Incorporations).

St. Andrews (*v.* Bishop), 31, 37, 40, 51, 102.

St. Anthony's, 2, 3, 19, 21, 23, 25, 34, 35, 40, 42, 44, 45, 48, 52, 53, 54, 56, 65, 66, 70, 71, 73, 80, 81, 82, 84, 90, 98, 99, 110, 124, 125, 127, 131, 133, 134, 135, 137, 139, 141, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 151, 152, 153, 162, 166, 171, 173, 175, 176, 182, 184.

St. Cuthbert's, 19, 139, 173.

St. James' Chapel, 35, 125, 134, 135, 141, 173.

Salary (*v.* Stipend).

Sandglass, 155, 162.

Sands (*v.* Quarters), 170.

Scandal (*v.* Discipline), 30, 31, 39, 74, 85, 133, 161, 170, 176.

School (*v.* Grammar School).

—— 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25, 43, 44, 46, 47, 61, 63, 70, 78, 80, 89, 98, 105, 106, 116, 119, 128, 129, 136, 137, 138, 155, 160, 161, 181, 183.

Scots Money (*v.* Coins).

Seafield, 28, 55, 87, 96, 108, 127, 148.

Seal, 24, 42, 134.

Searchers, 11, 15, 22, 26, 28, 35, 36, 37, 45, 72, 87, 88, 91, 121, 146, 166, 167, 174, 175, 177, 178, 179, 181, 183, 184.

Seats, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 35, 36, 37, 41, 43, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 70, 72, 74, 75, 78, 79, 81, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87, 88, 91, 99, 100, 101, 104, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 114, 115, 116, 118, 121, 122, 125, 128, 130, 131, 132, 135, 136, 137, 140, 147, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 167, 168, 173, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182.

Sederunt, 84, 86.

Semple, Lord, 143.

Services (*v.* Communion, Weekday Services), 13, 36, 48, 50, 52, 78, 83, 106, 107, 110, 111, 119, 155, 165, 177.

Session, 1, 4, 10, 16, 18, 20, 21, 28, 31, 32, 33, 35, 38, 42, 43, 45, 46, 55, 66, 68, 75, 78, 79, 80, 84, 86, 87, 90, 93, 94, 118, 121, 122, 123, 124, 126, 127, 129, 130, 131, 135, 142, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 158, 160, 161, 162, 166, 170, 171, 172, 173, 175, 180, 182.
—— Clerk, 9, 24, 25, 31, 34, 46, 110, 129, 142, 143, 144, 148, 149, 155, 157, 159, 166, 168, 169, 174.
Sharp, Rev. Jas., 30, 32, 33, 34, 37, 39, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53, 58, 60, 67, 70, 74, 75, 78.
Sheriff Brae, 2, 146, 154, 165.
Shoemakers (*v.* Cordwainers).
Shore, 45, 75, 103, 120, 129, 143, 179.
Silver (*v.* Cups), 65, 66, 80, 81, 105, 107, 127, 150, 152.
Skippers (*v.* Trinity House).
Slaiders (*v.* Carters).
Slaters (*v.* Crafts).
Smiths (*v.* Hammermen).
Soldiers (*v.* Army).
Solemn League and Covenant (*v.* Covenanters), 46.
Spence's Land, 142.
Staffman, 74, 116, 119, 130, 131, 135, 136.
Steeple, 12, 13, 14, 52, 53, 65, 72, 75, 92, 116, 121, 126, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 137, 138, 139, 140.
Stent (*v.* Bailies, Taxes), 57, 72, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84.
Stipend, 22, 25, 29, 33, 34, 43, 44, 47, 49, 52, 54, 65, 69, 70, 73, 74, 78, 86, 88, 89, 90, 91, 93, 96, 102, 106, 108, 109, 110, 112, 113, 128, 129, 133, 140, 141, 142, 144, 155, 162, 176, 180.
Stool (*v.* Repenting).
Storries' Alley, 64.
Strathallan, Lord, 184.
Swearing (*v.* Discipline, Blasphemy), 35, 39, 40, 41, 70.

Tables (*v.* Communion), 22, 48, 79.
Tailors (*v.* Incorporations), 5, 20, 23, 25, 27, 28, 39, 41, 86, 101, 110, 117, 118, 120, 132, 136.
Taverns, 9, 11, 26, 43, 44, 74, 75, 91, 116, 184.
Taxes (*v.* Stent), 9, 12.
Teinds, 19, 91, 112.
Tent, 183.
Testimonial, 2, 8, 10, 30, 33, 45, 54, 65, 78, 85, 120, 148, 157, 159, 170.
Thanksgiving, 50, 91, 116, 121, 159.
Tickets (*v.* Tokens), 13, 20, 22, 23, 24, 105, 113, 115, 163, 169.
Timber Bush, 61.
Timbermen, 6, 99, 100, 101.
Todshole Close, 142.
Tokens (*v.* Tickets), 169, 170, 177, 182.
Tolbooth, 1, 10, 22, 36, 48, 51, 56, 57, 65, 69, 71, 98, 108, 121, 142, 145, 152, 163, 173, 174.
—— Quarter (*v.* Quarters).
Tomb (Stones), 3, 10, 69, 71, 72, 87, 88, 104, 121, 122, 128, 130, 136, 158, 178, 182.
Toolls, 65.
Traffickers (*v.* Incorporations), 32, 78, 86, 99, 100, 101, 108, 109, 111, 112, 114, 118, 119, 134, 146, 181.
Trinity House, 3, 6, 21, 25, 37, 43, 44, 49, 50, 54, 72, 79, 82, 83, 99, 100, 101, 102, 107, 108, 110, 111, 115, 119, 120, 131, 132, 138, 142, 147, 172, 179, 182, 184.
Turks, 45, 51, 53, 70, 71, 73, 131, 137, 140, 147.

Utensils (*v.* Church, Cups).

Visitation, 85, 99, 103, 126, 127, 134, 137, 141, 143, 144, 152, 171.
Visitors (*v.* Searchers).

Wakes (*v.* Lykwakes).
Wall (*v.* Churchyard).
Warriston, 135, 152, 160, 161, 168, 184.
Water Lane, 170.
Waugh, Rev. James, 140, 141, 142, 143, 145, 151, 161, 165, 167.
Weavers (*v.* Incorporations), 19, 25, 49, 50, 52, 75, 86, 107, 109, 114, 116, 135.
Weddings (*v.* Marriages).
Week-day Services, 7, 10, 12, 18, 35, 38, 65, 78, 87, 91, 96, 121, 139, 144, 145, 155, 158, 159.
Weir, Rev. John, 77, 78, 79, 80, 84, 86, 88, 89, 91, 93, 94.
Windmill, 4, 59, 70, 80, 104, 106, 107, 110, 177.
Window (*v.* Church Repairs).
Wine Tax (*v.* Impost).
Winton, Earl of, 128.
Wishart, Rev. W., 19, 24, 29, 30, 149, 151, 152, 153, 154, 156, 157, 158, 160, 162, 165, 166, 167, 168, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 182.
Witchcraft, 2, 17, 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52, 54, 89, 90, 95, 117, 145, 146.
Wrights (*v.* Crafts), 139, 177.
Writs, 6, 8, 22, 24, 27, 34, 110, 134, 175.

Yardheads (*v.* Quarters), 54, 69, 70, 134, 146, 154, 155, 174.

LEITH:
WILLIAM R. DUFF & CO.